

Mandela, Tambo meet in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Nelson Mandela and Oliver Tambo, friends and allies long separated by the fortunes of their campaign against apartheid, met Monday for the first time in 26 years and talked about old times. "It was an emotional meeting" and went on for "some time," said African National Congress (ANC) spokesman David Kibang. He declined to give details, saying that the two men would meet every day during Mandela's week-long visit to Sweden. Mandela and Tambo last saw each other in London in 1962 during one of their trips outside South Africa to master support for the ANC. The years since then took a toll. Mandela returned to South Africa and was jailed for 27 years for plotting against white-minority rule. Tambo remained in exile, leading the campaign for black majority rule. ANC president said he suffered a stroke seven months ago. Now 72, he is recovering in a Stockholm clinic. Mandela, 71, was freed last month and the ANC was legalised by South African President F.W. de Klerk's steps towards white-black negotiations.

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Carter in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter arrived Monday for a three-day private visit, his first stop in a Middle East fact-finding tour. He will have lunch with President Hosni Mubarak Tuesday and leave for Syria on Wednesday. Kenneth Stein, director of Middle Eastern studies at the Carter Centre in Atlanta's Emory University, said last week the former president's tour also will include Syria, Jordan and Israel. Stein is accompanying Carter on the trip.

Egypt gets Saudi assistance

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia Monday promised Egypt \$25 million to help it make the Sinai desert bloom with water pumped from the Nile River. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted Minister of Finance and National Economy Mohammad Ahal Khalil as saying King Fahd had ordered the Saudi Development Fund to provide 94 million Saudi riyals (\$25 million) for the project. Ahal Khalil said the fund, the kingdom's main aid agency, would also extend loans of 207 million riyals (\$55.2 million) and 64 million riyals (\$17 million) for a sugar plant and a highway. The road would link Cairo with the southern city of Assiut, SPA quoted the minister as saying.

Djohar declared winner in Comoros

MORONI (R) — Interim President Said Mohammad Djohar won the second round of the Comoro Islands' presidential election with 54 per cent of the vote, the Ministry of the Interior said Monday. The results were immediately contested by Djohar's rival, Mohammad Taki, who complained of widespread fraud in Sunday's vote on Anjouan Island, which accounts for a third of the Comoro's 400,000 population.

Briton sentenced in Egypt for corrupting minors

CAIRO (AP) — A judge convicted a British man Monday of corrupting minors and sentenced him to a year in prison. The case was the second in less than a month with a Western man facing similar charges because of alleged sexual liaisons with young boys. Judge Saad Zeinboud, chief of Cairo's Agouza misdemeanors court, pronounced the verdict and the sentence against Paul David Santon, 39. Santon, who had pleaded innocent, is free on bail of 200 Egyptian pounds (\$76) and was not in court. He has 10 days to appeal and will remain free until any appeal is settled, Zeinboud said.

Shevardnadze delays Japan visit

TOKYO (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has postponed a planned visit to Tokyo in March because of his tight schedule, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said Monday. The talks were expected to focus on Soviet-Japanese relations, including the sticky question of the Kuriles, four northeast islands that are the subject of a territorial dispute between the Soviet Union and Japan.

S. Yemeni women stage march

ADEN (R) — Breaking new ground in South Yemen, about 70 women paraded through the streets of Aden Monday demanding freedom for political prisoners. The government denies it holds. They said they had proof their menfolk, missing since bloody battles in a 1986 coup, were still alive in the country's jails. Women have equal rights under the Marxist constitution but the demonstration was the first women's march in years. South Yemen has been thawing out its political life in preparation for a merger with North Yemen. Witnesses said mothers, sisters and wives toured the main streets before going to the presidential palace to meet President Ali Abdullah Salim. According to Aden's news agency Atlas, all the political prisoners were released under a 1987 amnesty.

Tunis meeting urges more support for intifada

Arab ministers call for summit on Jewish influx

TUNIS (R) — Arab foreign ministers called Monday for Arab heads of state to meet urgently to discuss the mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

An Arab League spokesman said the call was a recommendation and, for a summit to take place, an Arab head of state would have to say he was willing to host it.

A statement issued after a regular meeting of foreign ministers said the league would step up contacts with the Soviet Union and other countries from which Jews are emigrating "to explain the dangers to peace and the rights of the Palestinian people."

The meeting said ministers should speed up plans to visit Moscow, Washington, Peking and European capitals as part of an Arab offensive against the emigration.

The foreign ministers of Algeria, Iraq, Syria and Tunisia were to have visited Moscow last weekend but the visit was put off because of the Arab League meeting.

The Soviet Union has condemned the settlement of immigrants in the occupied territories but the only practical concession the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has been able to obtain is a Soviet agreement to withhold approval of direct flights between Moscow and Israel.

Israel expects up to half-a-million Soviet Jews to arrive over

the next few years and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said earlier this year a "big Israel" was needed to accommodate them.

Many Soviet Jews who would normally have emigrated to the United States have chosen Israel instead because of Washington's introduction of quotas on refugees.

Arab summits usually take weeks to prepare and it was likely that one would take place before the U.N. Security Council debated Soviet Jewish emigration later this month, diplomats said. The league statement said the ministers called on Arab countries to support the intifada in the occupied territories by increasing contributions to UNRWA, the U.N. agency which looks after Palestinian refugees.

They should also try to persuade the United States to reverse its decision to cut its support for UNRWA, it added.

'Friendly compromise'

Tunisia Monday described arrangements for the Arab League's return to Cairo as a friendly compromise and said the status of Tunis afterwards would be similar to Geneva's in the United Nations system.

Foreign Minister Ismail Khelil told a news conference that under the agreement reached Sunday

the league would set up a "second centre" in Tunis to complement the Cairo headquarters.

"We could not say a second headquarters because that would have meant amending the Arab League Charter, which would have been too complicated," he said.

The charter specifies that Cairo is the headquarters. An Arab summit moved it temporarily to Tunis in 1979 after Egypt signed a treaty with Israel but did not amend the charter.

The text of the agreement, distributed by Khelil, says a committee grouping the foreign ministers of Iraq, Tunisia, Egypt, Morocco and Oman and Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kibi will define the exact functions of the Tunis office.

"We adopted the word 'centre' but, according to the discussions we had, centre in the sense of headquarters, rather like Geneva in relation to New York," Khelil said.

Tunisia had fought to retain the headquarters and when that seemed impossible it tried to delay the transfer for up to two years. Egypt wanted the league to move as soon as possible.

The Arab ministers agreed that the return would take place over a year and Tunis would retain three pan-Arab institutions.

"It was a package deal, a friendly compromise... there was no rancour at all," Khelil said.

House panel thanks King for release of prisoners

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Freedoms Committee of the Lower House of Parliament Monday sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein thanking him for the release of a number of political detainees.

The committee, which met Monday, also set up a sub-committee to meet Prime Minister Mudar Badran and discuss the possibility of releasing security prisoners who have not committed murder or caused harm to others.

Fears rise of fresh Aoun-Geagea war

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Troops of renegade General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen exchanged machinegun and rocket fire in east Beirut Monday, increasing fears that all-out inter-Christian war could break out again.

One soldier was killed and three people, including an LF militiaman and a child, were wounded in the clashes concentrated around Ashrafieh district, security sources quoted by Reuters said.

The nearby museum crossing, the only link between east and Muslim west Beirut, was closed at noon because of the exchanges.

The fighting was another breach of an 11-day-old ceasefire that halted merciless tank, artil-

lery and rocket battles for control on Lebanon's Christian enclave. At least nine people have been killed and 10 wounded in similar clashes since Friday.

They said the rival forces also fired occasional rocket-propelled grenades into each other's positions in Badaro.

More than 810 people have been killed and 2,650 wounded since the inter-Christian fighting erupted Jan. 31 when the LF refused to heed an Aoun order to disarm.

The close-quarter use of tanks and artillery devastated whole residential, industrial and commercial neighbourhoods.

Witnesses said on Monday that

EC joins British pressure on Iraq

LONDON (Agencies) — European governments, journalists and relatives appealed to Iraq Sunday for clemency for a London newspaper reporter sentenced to death and for the British nurse imprisoned after being found guilty of helping him spy.

A delegation of European Community (EC) ambassadors went to the Foreign Ministry in Baghdad to make a "humanitarian appeal" for Faraz Bazoof and Daphne Parish, the EC said in a statement.

British Ambassador Harold Walker said he made a separate trip to the ministry to deliver a personal appeal from Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

A Foreign Office spokesman said Britain would also be talking to its allies in the next few days "to see what support they will give us in pressuring the Iraqis."

His Majesty King Hussein, who met with Mrs. Thatcher Sunday, volunteered to see what he could do to help, according to government sources quoted by Press Association, the British domestic news agency.

Iraq said Monday that the outcry over the death sentence was blatant interference and that the man had been given a fair trial.

Information Minister Latif Nassif Jassem said:

"We consider the fabricated fuss against us a flagrant interference in our internal affairs because our measure had fully responded with Iraqi law which sentences any spy to execution."

Jassem, in a statement carried by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), said: "The case was tried fairly and the two were convicted and sentenced in the presence of the British consul and in accordance with the laws applied in Iraq."

In Brussels, the International Federation of Journalists condemned the death sentence and called for it to be commuted. Bazoof admitted on Iraqi television to spying for Israel but Observer editor Donald Trefford said he withdrew the statement during his trial.

Bazoof was arrested in September and charged with spying for foreign powers after making an unauthorized trip to a military complex. He was in Iran on assignment for the Observer.

He was tried last week along with nurse Parish who was accused of driving him to the area. She was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Jassem said the military area where Bazoof was arrested is more than 300 kilometres away from the area in Kurdistan where the elections which the journalists said he was covering were taking place.

The Observer has said Bazoof was in the area investigating reports of a huge explosion at the military-industrial complex south of Baghdad, and stressed this was a normal journalistic activity.

A British journalist said Monday Iraq would damage its world standing if it executed the journalist.

Peres gets party mandate to bring down government

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Labour Party Monday blamed Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc for undermining peace efforts and authorised party leaders to bring down the coalition government.

Vice-Premier Shimon Peres told the 1,300 members of the party's central committee that Shamir was stalling and would not respond to U.S. peace proposals.

"We have reached a conclusion that Shamir will try to run a policy of saying neither yes or no. He will try to avoid the decision and will pull us into the desert of indecision," said Peres, leader of the party.

The party members approved a vaguely worded, two-point resolution with only one member dissenting.

The resolution said Likud prevented a cabinet vote "on essential issues relating to the peace process" and this threatened the continuation of diplomatic efforts.

It authorised the party leadership and the 39 Labour members of the 120-seat parliament to "determine the parliamentary moves necessitated by the situation."

That meant Peres had a mandate to try to bring down the government in a no-confidence motion. Such a vote was expected

Thursday unless a compromise could be worked out to avoid a government collapse in the meantime.

Religious Affairs Minister Ze'evulun Hammer of the National Religious Party was attempting to find common ground.

But Shamir aide Avi Pazner said shortly before the Labour Party decision, which had been expected, that seemed to be little room left for agreement.

"It looks like the two parties are going for a showdown Thursday. It would take a miracle to reach a compromise before that," he said.

(Continued on page 3)

Palestinian demonstrator shot dead in Jericho

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian refugee shot by Israeli soldiers during stone-throwing clashes near the West Bank town of Jericho died Monday, hospital officials said.

Jamal Mohammad Khalifeh, 18, was the fifth Palestinian killed by Israeli forces in the past week, Arab sources said.

Officials at Jerusalem's Makassed hospital said Khalifeh died during an operation on a bullet wound in his abdomen.

Israeli sources said soldiers fired at demonstrators at Aqbat Jaber refugee camp Sunday night. They said the army imposed a curfew on the camp and a

senior officer was checking the circumstances of Khalifeh's death.

The army Sunday exhumed the body of a Palestinian from Tul-karm refugee camp in the West Bank to investigate the cause of death, military sources said.

His family said Sam Sarouji, 35, suffocated Saturday night after the army fired teargas into his home during clashes in Tul-karm camp.

Israeli troops and civilians have killed at least 630 Palestinians during the 27-month uprising in the occupied territories.

In Arab Jerusalem, Palestinians kept stores and businesses shut for the third day to mourn

the killing of two residents by police Saturday.

Women students at a community college in Arab Jerusalem blocked a street in front of their campus with stones and rubbish bins and chanted slogans in support of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Residents of the West Bank city of Hebron accused Jewish settlers celebrating the Jewish holiday of purim on Sunday of trying to provoke clashes with them.

They said drunken settlers burned Palestinian flags, fired toy-guns at Arabs and entered the Ibrahim Mosque.

Lebanese seek to prevent Israeli settlement in south

BEIRUT (AP) — Residents from South Lebanon have petitioned the central government to prevent an American from establishing the first Israeli settlement on Lebanese soil, the government said Monday.

An official statement said the petition was made by representatives of the 5,000-strong population of the town of Rashaya Fankhar in Israel's self-designated "security zone" in the south.

It was addressed to President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Safim Al Hoss and Parliament Speaker Hussein Fousseini.

The petition said William Robinson, who it described as a Jewish American emigrant, moved to settle in the town's

school right after Israel's 1982 invasion and gradually brought in relatives and Israeli acquaintances.

An official with a fundamentalist Christian organisation in Israel, however, said Robinson was "an Evangelical Christian" who with his family has been trying to help orphans and handicapped children.

The Lebanese petition said Robinson "seized the pine forests near Rashaya Fankhar and recently brought in Israeli engineers to build houses for 100 families to live outside the town."

It said most of these families would be Jews who emigrated to Israel from the United States and Sudan in the last two years.

"We appeal to you to move

quickly to block the establishment of the first Zionist settlement on Lebanese territory," the petition added.

It accused the command of a Norwegian battalion serving with the U.N. Interim Force in South Lebanon (UNIFIL) of "collaborating with Robinson" but gave no details.

Timur Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. force described the incident as a quarrel in which the force was not interested. He said UNIFIL's only contact with the Robinson family was that "our soldiers during Christmas gave gifts to the five children at the school."

(Continued on page 3)

Lithuanian 'republic' urges Moscow recognition

VILNIUS, Lithuania (R) — The Lithuanian Parliament urged Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Monday to recognise its newly proclaimed republic and invited him to begin talks on restoring its independence.

Despite the high drama generated by the parliament's weekend declaration of independence from 50 years of Soviet rule, residents of the Baltic republic saw little prospect for immediate change.

And the republic's leadership — dominated by the nationalist Sajudis movement — faced a stiff task in turning their republic, currently intertwined with the Soviet economy, into a viable state.

Gorbachev told the Soviet parliament Monday he was alarmed by Lithuania's declaration of independence.

"The information that is coming in from there is rather alarming," he said. "The decisions which are being taken there affect the fundamental interests and destiny of the republic itself, of the people and of our entire state."

Top Communist Party conservative Yegor Ligachev ruled out the possibility of Moscow using force to reverse the decision.

"We will not use force. We must resolve this by political means. Tanks will not help in this matter," he told reporters.

The Lithuanian parliament's appeal to Gorbachev, made during a debate broadcast live on Vilnius Radio, expressed the desire for "permanent good political and economic relations with the USSR."

"We ask you to regard this address to you as our official proposal to the USSR to begin negotiations to settle all the issues connected with the restoration of an independent state of Lithuania, which has already been accomplished," it said.

As the parliament pursued the debate on restoring its pre-World War II independence, Vilnius residents turned up at work as usual. There were no plans for rallies to greet the proclamation.

Deputies began examining the long-term aspects of their independent state, including turning nationalised Soviet industries over to Lithuanian control and setting up border posts.

These were mainly referred to government commissions for discussion once Moscow agrees to talks on restoring statehood — a step when the republic was absorbed into the Soviet Union in 1940 along with nearby Estonia and Latvia.

Lithuania's leaders have put on an optimistic face on the economic prospects after independence despite the republic's poor resource base and the economy's current inefficient operation.

E. Germany ends foreign espionage

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany is closing down its foreign espionage service, responsible for some of the greatest spying coups of the cold war, and calling home its agents, a government commission said Monday.

Werner Fischer, a member of the government commission disbanded the old Ministry for State Security, told journalists the espionage section would be cut from 4,000 to 250 officials by June.

"Those 250 will be responsible for the orderly withdrawal of our agents. This is a great problem because only a small number of them are GDR (East German) citizens," Fischer said.

Fischer said the Hauptverwaltung Aufklärung (HVA) intelligence service was being moved from the sprawling former security headquarters in East Berlin to a smaller building. It was being dismantled as a last stage in the break-up of the entire "Stasi" state security apparatus.

Western intelligence officials believe the HVA records would almost certainly have been copied before destruction for use by the Soviet KGB intelligence agency in Moscow.

Iranian radicals urge not to free hostages

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The leader of Iran's radical faction has said some of the foreigners kidnapped in Lebanon were spies and argued against releasing any of the "mercenary U.S. hostages."

The comment came in an editorial signed by Ali Akbar Mohtashemi and published Saturday in Tehran's Persian-language Kayhan that was made available to the Associated Press Monday.

Also Monday, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported that the son of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini accused the United States of falsely trying to imply that ties with Iran are improving.

Mohtashemi, a former interior minister who heads the faction that opposes President Hashemi Rafsanjani's opening to the West, attacked those who suggest Iran should help get the hostages freed.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran cannot and should not impose its policies and views on other Muslim nations," he wrote. "Furthermore, the freedom of the hostages means breaking the chains of bloodthirsty wolves."

"The sentence for a spy in an Islamic country is death," Mohtashemi wrote.

The Westerners held in Lebanon are eight Americans, four Britons, two West Germans, two Swiss, an Irishman and an Italian.

The longest held is Terry Anderson, 42 chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press. He was kidnapped on March 16, 1985.

Mohtashemi said a recent call for the hostages' release in the Rafsanjani-aligned Tehran Times and similar comments by Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim spiritual leader Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah "heightened the pressure on the Islamic Revolution and the Muslims of Lebanon."

"Instead of putting pressure on the wronged Lebanese Muslims to release the mercenary U.S. hostages, world public opinion should look for the centre of hostage-taking at the White House and among Western and American intelligence services," he wrote.

Referring to the disappearance of four Iranians in north Lebanon in 1982, Mohtashemi claimed "the four Iranian diplomats were taken hostage in Beirut when it was under the security cover of the NATO Multinational Forces."

He was referring to the force that was sent into Beirut in the wake of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. It was never deployed in north Lebanon.

Rafsanjani repeatedly has said Iran would be willing to help gain the release of the Western hostages if it can be ascertained what happened to the four Iranians.

The four disappeared at a Lebanese Forces militia checkpoint 40 kilometres north of Beirut.

Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Geagea said in August 1988 that after he took over the militia in 1986 he found no trace of the missing men and blamed his predecessor, Elie Hobeika,

for their disappearance and apparent murder.

Geagea's disclosure was the first formal comment by the militia that it had been involved in the seizure of the missing Iranians. All four men are believed dead.

Mohtashemi said "according to documents found, the United States and the West have been involved in dozens of terrorist operations against Muslims and Islamic figures."

He claimed that some of the hostages were spies for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), specifically naming Terry Waite, the British envoy of the archbishop of Canterbury who disappeared in west Beirut in January 1987. The church has denied this.

Mohtashemi also said Col. William Higgins, who his captors said in July 1989 that they had executed, was a spy for the CIA. The United States has denied this.

Ayatollah Khomeini's son Ahmad said Washington was trying to create the impression that "relations between Iran and the United States are so close that when a person impersonates the Iranian president and calls up the U.S. president, he easily talks to that person," IRNA reported.

He was referring to an incident a month ago when U.S. President George Bush spoke on the phone to an imposter who claimed to be Rafsanjani.

His comment echoed editorials Sunday in two radical Tehran newspapers.

IOC to discuss exodus of Soviet Jews

NICOSIA (R) — The Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has convened a special committee to discuss what it termed the danger of the exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel, the Islamic News Agency (INA) said Monday.

It said the extraordinary meeting of the Islamic Committee of Experts next Saturday would be attended by delegates from Saudi Arabia, Syria, Sierra Leone, Pakistan, Malaysia, Jordan, the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Morocco and Senegal.

The agency, monitored in Cyprus, did not say where the gathering would take place. Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, serves as the headquarters for the 46-member OIC.

The agency quoted Nabil Ma'arouf, OIC assistant secretary-general for Palestine and Jerusalem affairs, as saying "we must take the necessary step for the Islamic nation's participation in facing this danger."

"The new Jewish influx to occupied Palestine is aimed at driving more Arabs from their land and replacing them with Zionist settlers, with future expansion at the expense of neighbouring countries to realise the dream of greater Israel."

The Arab World has been alarmed by the exodus of Jews from the Soviet Union, with at least 5,000 a month arriving in Israel, fearing the emigrants will move into the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and displace the Palestinian majority.

Security zone in Iraq's Kurdish area 'not eternal'

ARBIL, Iraq (AP) — A senior Iraqi official said the security zone in the Kurdish region bordering Iran and Turkey will be lifted as soon as a peace treaty with Iran is signed.

Bahaddin Ahmad, speaker of the Kurdish Legislative Council in Iraq, said the government has no intention to make the security zone on Iraq's northern and northeastern borders permanent.

"That was an exceptional measure we took during the war and we will lift the security zone immediately after a peace accord is signed with Iran," Ahmad told reporters in this northern oil-rich provincial capital late Saturday.

The Iran-Iraq peace talks stalled right after the Aug. 22, 1988 ceasefire in the Gulf war, and the United Nations has been unable to make any progress towards a full peace accord.

He said the government will help the Kurdish population resettle in the towns and villages they wish to return to. But he did

not say whether they will be allowed to settle in the security zone area.

Diplomats say Iraq has relocated some 500,000 Kurds in recent years from a 30-kilometre deep strip along its borders with Iran and Turkey and resettled its population elsewhere in an effort to quell the decade-long Kurdish rebellion.

They also said about 1,000 villages were cleared in an effort to cut the supply and communication lines of the Kurdish guerrillas fighting for autonomy from Iraq.

Baghdad has denied charges that the Kurds were relocated in areas outside Kurdistan or that the changes were motivated by an effort to break up the tightly knit Kurdish clan system.

Ahmad, a Kurd who heads the 50 member legislative council of the Kurdish autonomy area, was speaking to reporters who were attending celebrations on the 20th anniversary of the March 11,

1970 declaration recognising Iraqi Kurdistan as an autonomous region.

"The autonomy rule has given Iraqi Kurds not only their rights as citizens but also their national rights," said Ahmad.

Ahmad scoffed on recent reports by Amnesty International and the U.S. State Department as "allegations and fabrications" disseminated by what he described as "Iraq's enemies."

Both reports were highly critical of Iraq's human rights record, particularly of its discrimination against the Kurdish minority.

"The area is open for anybody to come and travel through its towns and see with his own eyes what is going on here," said Ahmad.

The Kurdish Legislative Council has the power of overseeing local government activities in the Kurdish region and making some legislation in the region's affairs.

President Saddam Hussein issued a two-month unconditional

amnesty while on a visit to Arbil Saturday. It allows dissident Kurds who fled the country after another rebellion was crushed in 1988 to return to Iraq without facing charges.

Saddam said the amnesty included Jalal Talabani, leader of the rebel patriotic union of Kurdistan, a supporter of Iran during the war.

Talabani, who has recently joined other Iraqi opposition leaders in a front to topple the Iraqi government, had been excluded from a similar amnesty issued last year.

Another Kurdish official, Jafer Al Barazani, said the government has spent over one billion Iraqi dinars (\$3 billion) in development projects since the 1988 rebellion was crushed.

Barazani who heads the local government's council said the money went into education, transport, health and social projects as a part of long term plan to develop the area.

Bahrain inaugurates academy-museum

MANAMA (AP) — The emir of Bahrain Monday inaugurated a \$10-million academy-museum combination designed to promote Islamic studies and preserve rare manuscripts of the Koran.

Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa toured the ornate, palm-shaded compound of arabesque engraved marble and tinted glass, called "Beit Ul-Koran," or home of the Koran.

Flanked on both sides by his prime minister, crown prince and cabinet ministers, Sheikh Isa inspected exquisite Arabic calligraphy of Koranic verses inscribed on doors and walls of the structure.

The brief ceremony was attended by religious endowment and Islamic affairs ministers from Egypt, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

The two-story building on the south-east side of the Muharraq Island is viewed here as an embodiment of a growing religious fervour and oil-fuelled

generosity among Muslims of the Gulf region.

Beit Ul-Koran is the brainchild of Housing Undersecretary Abdul Latif Kanoo, who contributed to the project with money and rare copies of the Koran.

Apart from the Bahrain leaders, major financial donors include kings and emirs of Gulf countries, former Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani of Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Washington Prince Bandar bin Sultan, and others.

According to Kanoo, donations from kings and emirs amounted to about \$2.2 million. Businessmen and dignitaries contributed \$3.1 million, and \$4.7 million came from anonymous persons, he said.

Kanoo told reporters the Bahrain government has agreed to put up 50 per cent of the \$265,000 annual administration costs for five years. Beit Ul-Koran's board of managers will seek means of generating suffi-

cient income to run and maintain it, he said.

He paid tribute to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain, "the three countries that put up effective financial contributions to the project."

"In addition to the Gulf region, we have had contributions from people in countries as far as Taiwan, the United States, Korea, and elsewhere, from Muslims and non-Muslims — a total of 1033 persons," said Kanoo.

"Of these, 300 donated their money anonymously, and 733 donated with their names mentioned."

The marble-tiled exterior of the building resembles pages of the Koran, complete with engraved verses and chiseled classical Islamic art embellishments.

The centre comprises a mosque, school, lecture hall, library and museum.

The mosque has a capacity of 150 worshippers, the library will hold about 80,000 volumes re-

lated to Koranic researches in Arabic, English and French.

There are special facilities for scholars and researchers, complete with word processors, stenographers and recording devices. The lecture hall will be used for seminars and conferences.

The heart of the centre is the museum, with a collection of the world's "most valuable and priceless manuscripts of the Koran, according to Kanoo."

The collection includes the first edition of the Koran in Latin by Dr. Martin Luther, as well as versions in other languages. A last-minute contribution in the form of a translation in Welsh was offered by British embassy Third Secretary Stephen Harrison, himself a Welshman, provided by his parents Joy and Tim from Cardiff.

The nine-half museum also holds works related to Koranic history since the birth of Islam in the 7th century.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Kabul coup leader vows to fight on

ISLAMABAD (R) — Former Afghan Defence Minister Shahna-waz Tanai, accused of leading last week's failed coup against President Najibullah, was quoted by a rebel news service as pledging to continue his fight. He said those parts of the military still siding with him wanted to form an interim administration after consulting Western-backed Mujahideen guerrillas as a first step before holding elections, according to the Afghan News Agency (ANA). Najibullah says Tanai and his colleagues fled to neighbouring Pakistan after last week's attempted coup. Islamabad, which backs guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government, denies he is in Pakistan. "The war will not finish unless Najibullah is removed," Tanai was quoted as saying by the ANA which is run by the Hezb-I-Islami guerrilla party of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. "The Afghan military is determined to overthrow him," Hekmatyar, the most radical of the Pakistan-based guerrilla leaders, announced support for Tanai immediately after he launched his coup last Tuesday with the aerial bombing of the presidential palace in Kabul. But most other guerrilla groups have declined to take sides, calling the coup a tussle between what they call two Communist factions of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

Aid workers urge action on Ethiopia

LONDON (R) — British relief workers urged the world Monday to act immediately to help ensure food reaches more than four million people facing starvation in drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia. They said intensified fighting between government forces and rebels in Tigray and Eritrea provinces had seriously hit food distribution and new routes had to be used to avoid a disaster on the scale of the famine which killed a million people five years ago. Jim Mann, field director for the Save the Children Fund charity, told a news conference an attack by forces of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) on the Red Sea port of Massawa last month stopped all relief operations in Eritrea. "In January the world community had provided two-thirds of food aid requirements for 1990, mostly through Massawa. But now it's impossible to exaggerate the seriousness of the situation since the attack," Mann said. He said 45,000 tonnes of food aid were destroyed in the attack and international donors should now send food to the southern port of Asab.

Turkish say leftists plotted killings

ANKARA (R) — Turkish police, battling a surge of political violence, said Monday they had captured a group of armed leftists believed to have planned to assassinate two retired generals. The five leftists, two of them women, were captured after a clash in Hatay province near the Syrian border Friday. Police said they belonged to the Revolutionary Communist Party — an under-

ground group blamed for killing an Istanbul policeman in a weekend ambush that was followed by a 17-hour hostage siege. The five were believed to have planned to kill two former army generals who served as martial law officials during three years of harsh army rule in the early 1980s, police said. They carried Soviet-designed Kalashnikov assault rifles, hand grenades, ammunition and medicine, police said. A series of street killings in the past two months has reminded Turks of political violence by left and right which claimed more than 5,000 lives in the late 1970s and led to a 1980 coup.

2 Ethiopian warships reportedly sunk

DAMASCUS (R) — Eritrean rebels, fighting the Ethiopian government for autonomy, said Monday they sank two Ethiopian warships near the newly captured port of Massawa. A spokesman for the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said in a statement issued by its Damascus office a third warship was badly damaged in the attack Saturday near Dahlak island off Massawa. He said a total of 16 Ethiopian warships had been destroyed by the EPLF since the capture of the Massawa Port last month. The ships had been used to shell "innocent civilians in the port city."

Senegalese president in Morocco

RABAT (R) — President Abdou Diouf of Senegal held talks with King Hassan in the South Moroccan city of Agadir Sunday, breaking his homeward journey after visiting Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He said on arrival they would discuss the next summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference which is due to be held in Dakar. Diouf also said he would brief King Hassan on the African Socialist Conference to be attended in Cairo. Diplomats said the talks probably covered relations between Senegal and Mauritania, soured since last year by ethnic violence and border incidents.

2 killed in Sudan train accident

KHARTOUM (AP) — Two young men were killed and four others injured while falling off the roof of a crowded train that derailed in northeastern Sudan, a statement by the Sudan Railways Corporation has said. The statement said the victims, who were travelling illegally, fell to the ground when some of the cargo wagons derailed Saturday off a line linking Khartoum with the Mediterranean town of Port Sudan in the east. It said two 20-year-old men were killed. One 20-year-old man and three teenagers were also wounded. It said a fact-finding committee had been formed to investigate the accident. The accident took place at the Ogari station which lies between Atbara which is 280 kilometres northeast of Khartoum and Haiya which is 500 kilometres northeast of the capital. It said the crowded train had passenger and cargo wagons, with many men travelling on the roofs of the wagons, a common sight in Sudan.

Bashir voices positive developments for peace

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military leader predicts that mediation by Zaire will in coming days produce "positive developments" that could end the civil war in southern Sudan. A hint of what Lt.-Gen. Omar Hassan Al Bashir was speaking of came Monday with publication of an official statement signed by him and President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, whom Bashir visited Sunday.

The statement said Mobutu called on both Bashir's government and southern rebels to lay down arms to implement a ceasefire, with negotiations to follow on ending hostilities.

While the wording of the statement did not say that Bashir specifically agreed to a ceasefire, his signature on the statement indicated he was amenable to the idea.

Arriving from Zaire's capital Kinshasa Sunday night, Bashir said dual-track consultations are under way between Mobutu's and Bashir's governments and between Mobutu's government and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The Sudanese leader expressed optimism for "positive developments" in the next few days. Hundreds of thousands of people, mainly southern civilians, have died in the 7-year-old conflict, either from the fighting or from famine it caused by disrupting the south's agricultural economy.

In power since last June, Bashir's government held inconclusive negotiating rounds with the rebels last August and December. Mobutu has been trying in recent weeks to bring the two sides together for a third round of talks.

Riyadh, Cairo discuss promoting ties

NICOSIA (R) — A joint Saudi Arabian-Egyptian Committee began discussions in Riyadh Monday to expand bilateral ties, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said. The agency, received in Cyprus, said the Saudi team was headed by Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal, while the Egyptian delegation was led by Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid, who is also a deputy prime minister.

It quoted Prince Saud as saying in an opening speech the three-day session "comes at a time international and regional relations are going through a series of extremely important developments."

He said these included the

Palestinian uprising in Israeli-occupied territories, the armed conflict in Lebanon, the state of no-war, no-peace between Iraq and Iran, changes in East-West relations and political and economic reforms in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

Prince Saud said the meeting, the second since King Fahd visited Egypt a year ago following Cairo's readmittance into the Arab League, would follow up talks on concluding an economic and commercial cooperation agreement between the two countries.

The meeting, which follows a similar one in Cairo six months ago, will provide an opportunity to continue discussions on coop-

eration in the cultural, scientific, information, telecommunication and other fields, he added.

SPA quoted Abdul Maguid as saying in a press statement on arrival in Riyadh earlier Monday he hoped the deliberations would result in "additional rapprochement and cooperation between the kingdom and Egypt."

Replying to a question Sunday's decision by an Arab foreign ministers' meeting to move the Arab League headquarters from Tunis back to Cairo, Abdul Maguid said: "Things have been restored to normal."

"We are pleased with the cooperation demonstrated by Prince Saud and all other brethren."

Beirutis try to survive the war

By Diana Abdallah Reuter

BEIRUT — They clutch torches to find their way up darkened stairways, crowd artesian wells for water, dial one number for an hour to make a telephone call and jump from their seats at the sound of a slamming door.

That is how Beirutis go through the day. At night, they dance the Lambada, as if they had no worries, at nightclubs to rock and pop music and dine at restaurants serving a wide variety of oriental and Western food.

On their way home they drive through deserted, pitch dark streets and stop at scores of army checkpoints.

"Don't ask how we survive, we don't even know, I think we have become numb," said Nabila Rida, a university student.

In the Christian half of the capital, life is even more grim. More than a month of inter-Christian artillery battles have destroyed entire neighbourhoods, killed more than 800 peo-

ple and forced thousands to flee, many to mainly Muslim west Beirut.

The Christian heartland, previously dubbed by Lebanese as their Monte Carlo, is like a ghost town at night. The streets are divided by huge earth barricades.

Beirutis say they are desperate, and their tired faces show it like never before in 15 years of civil war.

Garbage piles litter street corners, power generators in the streets make deafening sounds and battered cars honk constantly to get through chaotic traffic jams.

A chronic power cut has deprived them of electricity, damage to pipes has cut water supplies, and inter-Christian battles have destroyed most of the telephone lines.

The slamming of doors sends their hearts racing for fear it could be artillery shelling.

When they listen to news broadcasts on radio stations they shake their heads in dismay at continued political debates that

they know will not end the violence plaguing their lives.

"We spend our time plotting how to bathe and wash our clothes... I have now read a book in more than three months because I spend my time trying to survive," said a university professor.

A middle-aged woman waited outside the office of a local militia official in west Beirut for five hours to complain that his men broke into her flat and stole a butane gas cylinder.

"Had they stolen jewellery or money I would not have complained, but where am I going to find gas," she said.

An Israeli blockade on a southern Lebanese oil refinery has caused a shortage of gas supplies.

But supermarket shelves are still stocked with caviar, champagne, expensive cheese and wines.

Display windows at boutiques, hidden behind sandbags, show a colourful variety of the latest in fashion for both women and men, but owners say business is bad.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
15:50 News summary in Arabic
16:00 Local programme
16:05 Agricultural programme
16:10 Programme review
16:15 News in Arabic
16:20 Arabic songs
16:25 Programme review
16:30 Local programme
16:35 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:10 Des Chiffres Et de Lettres
18:30 L'Appart
19:00 News in French
19:15 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Mr. Belvedere
21:00 Goya
22:00 News in English
22:20 Hunter

PRAYER TIMES

04:28 Fajr
05:45 (Sunnah) Duha
11:45 Dhuhr
15:06 'Asr
17:45 Maghrib
19:02 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swifish Tel. 530740.
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785, 683326.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 664757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 771331.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 775261.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Assunta International Church Tel. 683526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654922.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be cold, partly cloudy to cloudy, and rainy at times. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with possible

scattered showers and winds will be southerly fresh and sea rough.

Amman Min./max. temp. 5/14
Aqaba 12/21
Djessra 6/20
Jordan Valley 10/22

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 11, Aqaba 19. Humidity readings: Amman 64 per cent, Aqaba 60 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMBULANCE
Dr. Khalid Klob 626919
Dr. Anwar Muna Al Haj 773000
Dr. Walid Salameh 779991
Dr. Abdul Rahman Jibr 773000
First pharmacy 639192
Rendous pharmacy 773536
Al Asema pharmacy 679055
Nakrouh pharmacy 623672
Al Salem pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamoud pharmacy 637460

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Ambulance 630441
Civil Defence Fire Brigade 199
Rescue Police 392, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Traffic Police 843402
Public Security Department 636321
Road Construction 610900
Police Complaints 661276

Water and Sewerage 891467
Complaints 891467
Ambulance 661111
Complaints 787111
Telephone 636321
(Director's residence) 121
Overseas Calls 016230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Rapsala 623101
Abdullah Telephone Rapsala 661101
Jordan Television 773111

HOSPITALS

AMBMAN
Hussein Medical Centre 813613/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816
Al-Huda Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642402
Malina, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisat 664714
Shmeisat Hospital 669131
Al-Mashraf Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Amman 661272/3
Al-Ahli, Amman 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mashraf 77701/3
Al-Bashir, J. Amman 775112/6
Army, Marja 891511/5
Queen Alia Hospital 6024050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)963323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Bin Sina Hospital (09)986732
IBRD
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)5200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Draft copyright law goes to Parliament

AMMAN (Petra) — A draft copyright law has been referred by the government to the Lower House of Parliament for debate and endorsement, Minister of Culture Khaled Al Karaki said Monday.

Jordan has been observing an Ottoman copyright law enacted in 1912 which has become obsolete and does not provide proper protection for writers, the minister said.

Karaki said that violators of the proposed law would face a minimum penalty of three-month imprisonment and payment of JD 500.

"Recent developments in the field of writing and publishing, and the presence of a large number of organizations which deal with publications and distribution of books and other materials, and the government's agreements with other parties necessitates the enactment of the new law," the minister said.

The new law will also facilitate dealings with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and other Arab countries and international organisations, he added.



Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher and UAE Minister of Electricity and Water Resources Hamid Ben Naser Al Uweis

Monday sign an agreement on cooperation (Petra photo).

Jordan, UAE to boost ties in energy, electricity fields

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Monday signed a memorandum paving the way for cooperation in energy and electricity related issues.

The two sides also discussed cooperation in water and irrigation fields.

The signing took place after two days of talks between a UAE delegation led by Minister of Electricity and Water Affairs Hamid Ben Naser Al Uweis and Jordanian officials including Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al Taher and Minister of Water and Irrigation Dawud Khalaf.

Under the terms of the memorandum, the two countries will cooperate in conducting studies, training personnel and consultations related to joint projects in energy and electricity. They will cooperate in ways of improving electricity production, and also in preparing tender documents for projects related to power networks, distribution of power, setting up thermal power stations, the installation of turbines, the construction of solar power units and wind energy equipment.

They will also exchange information and expertise on financial and administrative affairs re-

Regent meets UAE minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday stressed the importance of cooperation between Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in energy and water affairs in a meeting with the UAE minister. The Prince said that Jordan is willing to offer any help in these fields and ready to cooperate with UAE in conducting maintenance services at water and energy centres.

The UAE minister said he was impressed by Jordan's achievement in the exploitation of solar and alternative energy.

The memorandum was signed by Thabet Al Taher, Uweis Monday also met with Khalaf and

they discussed cooperation in water and irrigation fields and the exploitation of water resources and improving the standard of water supply systems.

Khalaf told the visiting UAE minister that running water now reaches 97 per cent of the Jordanian population and that sanitary and sewage services reach nearly 42 per cent. Khalaf briefed Uweis on irrigation projects being carried out by the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) and other economic and social development schemes under implementation in the valley.

JVA Secretary-General Mohammad Bani Hani gave details about farming and said that plans were being prepared for transforming all open canals into pressurised irrigation to save water lost through evaporation. Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Mu'tazz Al Bilbeisi briefed the UAE minister and the delegation accompanying him on water distribution programmes, especially during the summer, sewerage projects and experiments in the country.

The three ministers later met Prime Minister Mudar Badran and briefed him on the outcome of the talks.

Committee plans sit-in

(Continued from page 1)

the government to give assurances that the General Intelligence Department would not play a role in the hiring and firing of employees in the public and private sectors.

The subject of "interference" by the department in the appointments of personnel was brought up by parliamentarians in Lower House deliberations with the government and the deputies received assurances that the department would no longer have any role in such issues.

Addressing about 250 people gathered at Sunday's meeting, Khairy and the committee's deputy chief, Dr. Samir Yassin, said that parliamentarians had not been able to help the dismissed in their plight.

"We want to expose the parliamentarians who have not fulfilled their promises," said Khaled

Ramadan, a member of the committee.

Dismissed persons addressing the meeting charged that they were still being discriminated against for political and ideological reasons. Dr. Yassin told the Jordan Times that "on Jan. 20 we had approximately 970 people who had given us documents and statements as to why they were dismissed from jobs. At the time they said they wanted to demonstrate. We said no, wait let's use the official channels and so far nothing has happened. These people need work, they have to eat."

"Today," said Dr. Yassin, "we received 30 more dossiers of dismissed persons whose cases have not been answered to."

"The people who were dismissed have to apply for jobs as

everyone else," Dr. Yassin continued. "There is no compensation, there is no priority for those who were dismissed. We call on the government and the private sector to reinstate the dismissed people immediately at their old salaries. This is not being done," Dr. Yassin said.

While many of the dismissed persons attending the gathering said they wanted monetary and "moral" compensation, Dr. Yassin stressed the importance of reinstatement of the dismissed employees with salaries that would also allow for the passage of time since the dismissal. "A doctor before his dismissal may have had a salary of JD 500. Today if he is appointed to the same position he may get JD 200. Not only is the salary significantly less, the buying power has also diminished," he argued.

Lebanese

(Continued from page 1)

Rashaya Foukhar, in the foothills of Mount Hermon, is 13 kilometres northeast of the Israeli border in the "security zone" Israel proclaimed on Lebanese territory in 1985.

The zone is patrolled by Israeli troops and members of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia.

The zone overlaps with areas policed by the 5,800-strong UNIFIL stationed along the Lebanon-Israel border since 1978. The force comprises French, Swedish, Norwegian, Irish, Fijian, Nepalese, Ghanaian, Finnish and Italian contingents.

The Lebanese government statement had no additional data about Robinson. It did not say what action the president should take in response to the petition, but sources at Premier Hoss' office, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the government would complain to the United Nations.

In another report, the independent Beirut newspaper Al Nahar said Yossi Feled, commander of Israel's northern front, and several other senior Israeli army officers narrowly escaped from an attack in South Lebanon Thursday.

Peres gets mandate

(Continued from page 1)

Shamir reportedly was considering firing the Labour cabinet ministers to prevent them from becoming part of a transitional government which would be set up if parliament voted no confidence in the government.

"Shamir avoided a decision and tried to draw us into the desert of indecision," Peres told delegates before they overwhelmingly gave him their support.

But Peres gave no indication whether he would seek a last-minute compromise to save the coalition government.

In his headline speech, Peres attacked Likud for its indecision and the United States for its recent tough stance toward Jewish settlements in Arab Jerusalem.

Fears rise in Beirut

(Continued from page 1)

the rivals were reinforcing their positions with men and ammunition. LF militiamen in Ashrafieh were seen filling sand bags.

Land mines were being laid each day in several east Beirut streets after nightfall, they said. The combatants removed them at first light next day, the witnesses

added. Security sources said the LF command was taking advantage of the lull to review strategy while Aoun's troops were training hundreds of volunteers.

One political source said the intermittent clashes and reinforcements indicated another round of battles was inevitable.

Jordan stresses interest in promoting international links

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is keen on promoting cooperation between national and international institutions and on pursuing a dialogue designed to promote culture and education, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Monday.

Jordan is also interested in promoting Arab and Islamic studies and national heritage and interaction between Arab and international cultures, the Regent said in a brief address at the opening of a two-day conference by the International Baccalaureate School (IBS), which opened in Amman Monday.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath also addressed the session, outlining Jordan's educational process over the past 30

years. She said that a great deal of progress has been made in education at the school and university levels.

She said that the Ministry of Education has extended the compulsory stage in schools to 10 years instead of nine to give students a broader knowledge base before reaching the secondary stage.

Referring to the IBS, she said, "the system has won worldwide fame because it is comprehensive and offers training to students for two years, preparing them for university studies."

The Princess described the conference as part of Arab, regional and international endeavours to promote education.

Other speakers included Minister of Education and Higher

Education Mohamad Hamdan and the chairman of the IBS's constituent council. They both praised cooperation between IBS and the Ministry of Education to offer educational services to Jordanian students and to help promote the educational system in the country.

Later, Princess Sarvath chaired the first session: meetings which discussed educational developments in Jordan and the Arab World. The participants reviewed a paper on secondary education in Jordan submitted by two senior officials from the Ministry of Education.

Present at the opening session were cabinet ministers and a number of deputies and educationists.

Supply ministry gears up to meet Ramadan food needs

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Supply is making arrangements for increased availability of food supplies and other commodities to cope with the consumers' needs during the month of Ramadan.

A ministry spokesman said that directors of supply departments in the Kingdom had been called for a meeting March 19 to discuss working papers dealing with their respective districts' needs of food supplies during Ramadan, which is expected to start March 27. The meeting will discuss ways of ensuring continued supplies for the market during the Holy Month, the statement said.

Minister of Supply Nabil Abul Huda meanwhile reported that the ministry had no plans of raising the prices of poultry meat. The ministry has now launched intensive campaigns around the country to ensure that stores selling poultry meat are abiding by regulations and selling at prices fixed by the ministry, the minister said. Some merchants have already been fined for manipulating prices or for hoarding merchandise, he said.

Ministry of Supply officials said that a vessel with imported fresh poultry meat had docked at Aqaba and the quantity it carried should suffice the Kingdom and leave a surplus for future use. Whenever there is a shortage of

poultry meat on the local markets, the officials said, the ministry opens its warehouses and makes up for the shortage.

They said that the country's average monthly consumption of poultry meat was 5,000 tonnes and local production was insufficient to meet this demand.

The officials said that the Ministry of Agriculture was cooperating with the Ministry of Supply in a study to determine the causes behind the local poultry industry's failure to meet the demand. They added that the two ministries plan to adopt a strategy by which the country should become self-sufficient of poultry meat.

Traffic violations meeting calls for national strategy

AMMAN (J.T.) — A symposium on traffic violations and their relations to road accidents opened here Monday with a call from the government for a national comprehensive strategy to reduce road accidents, and working papers discussed in the first two sessions echoed the need for such a plan.

The call was voiced by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masadeh, who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, in opening the two-day symposium organised by the Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents (JSPRA) in cooperation with the Public Security Department (PSD).

Masadeh said that defining a national strategy should involve the participation of various public sectors and other organisations to make it effective and lasting.

"Jordan's leadership is deeply concerned over the increasing number of road accidents which cause the loss of human life — the most precious asset in Jordan — and the loss of funds which are badly needed for development," he said.

A two-day meeting held last October to discuss road accidents in Jordan showed that a total of 18,038 road accidents occurred in the Kingdom in 1988, causing the death of 364 people and the injury of nearly 10,000 others.

"There is no point of enacting laws that remain only on paper. If the public does not react favourably and conform to the rules of traffic then the laws are not effective," Masadeh said Monday. "Traffic police, students, pedestrians, workers, motorists and all road users should cooperate and help avoid all forms of accidents on the road so as to make the streets a safe place," he said.

PSD representative Muayyid

Mubaslat told the meeting that most accidents result from motorists' failure to abide by traffic regulations. Since road accidents are largely caused by human error, the PSD believes that there is an urgent need for providing proper training to all motorists and spreading awareness about traffic rules and regulations.

Mubaslat said.

"To help achieve the best results, the PSD has acquired modern equipment to control traffic inside and outside cities and recruited qualified people to do the job," Mubaslat added.

Dr. Mohammad Dabbas, who represented JSPRA, briefed the meeting on the society's programmes and seminars designed to spread awareness on road accidents and traffic rules.

Dr. Rawhi Al Sharif, the symposium's rapporteur, said that 17 working papers were to be reviewed during the sessions.

Workshop opens on animal feed testing

AMMAN (J.T.) — The University of Jordan Monday opened a regional workshop on microscopic testing of animal feed. Eight countries in addition to Jordan, which is represented by delegates from the private and public sectors, are attending the three-day event.

Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture Sidki Khader, addressing the opening session, stressed that Jordan, like countries with similar conditions, has to make do with the existing fodder stocks.

Khader said that the cost of animal feed accounts for nearly 75 per cent of livestock production cost and most of the feed was imported.

"Some farmers rely on their own normal methods of examining the quality of fodder, but microscopic examination has better results and costs less, Khader said.

The workshop is organised in cooperation with the American Soya Beans Association and the American Grain Council.

Participants will inspect primary materials used for production of animal feed for livestock and poultry and will be oriented on testing ways to ensure the safe use of these materials.

Taking part in the workshop are experts from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Turkey, Mexico and the U.S. in addition to Jordan.

Glass company makes JD 500,000 net profit

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Glass Industries Company (JGIC) in southern Jordan last year made a net profit of JD 500,000 from its sales to customers in Jordan and to at least eight Arab countries, following losses over the previous four years.

Apart from Jordanian businesses and companies, production of plain and tinted glass produced by the company's plant, located near the southern city of Maan, went to Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon, Tunisia, and Morocco, JGIC Managing Director Farhi Obaid said at a press conference here Monday.

Obaid said of 16,400 tonnes of glass produced last year, 13,500 were sold to these countries and more sales were expected during 1990 since the company had a monopoly on tinted glass production in the Arab World.

"The JGIC will soon produce vials and flasks in cooperation with North Yemen under a bilateral agreement. A joint Jordanian-North Yemeni committee will be set up to supervise the project," Obaid said. A local consultancy firm will be entrusted with revising studies on the project before tenders are floated in the two countries, he added.

The company has already received bids from Italy and Japan to finance the project, and there is a possibility that South Yemen will also be interested, Obaid said. He said the expected project to start production in two years, depending on glass produced at the factory near Maan and the primary materials which abound in the southern regions of Jordan.

Obaid said the project will use raw materials found in Jordan and the production will be done by Jordanians.

The National Music Conservatory/
Noor Al Hussein Foundation
and
The Embassy of Bulgaria in Jordan
present

SOFIA WIND QUINTET

in concert

works by Bach, Chopin,
Rimsky-Korsakov, Debussy, Joplin and
others

Saturday, March 17, 1990 at 8 p.m.
The Royal Cultural Centre

Tickets for JD 5 each are available at:

- The Royal Cultural Centre, tel. 689926
- Babiche, tel. 681922
- Istiklal Library-Sweifieh, tel. 821168
- The National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Exhibition of plastic artists Arif Al Hamed and Ibrahim Al Nakhleh at the Housing Bank Complex.
- * Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- * Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Mahmoud Issa at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * Plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Al Abedi at the Yarmouk University.
- * Art exhibition displaying paintings on glass and silk by Wafaa Tarawneh and Awni Al Khatib at the Professional Associations Complex.

LECTURE

- * Medical lecture on leishmaniasis at the seminar hall of the American University of Beirut Alumni Club — 7:30 p.m.
- * A lecture, in French, entitled "De Gaulle, l'Homme du 18 Juin" by Philippe Bec at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

SEMINAR

- * Seminar on the role of the press in the democratic change process at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

FILMS

- * Soviet film entitled "Five Evenings" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 7:00 p.m.
- * German video entitled "Stella" (English subtitled) at the German Institute — 8:00 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Wisdom at a dangerous turn

THE APPARENTLY unbridgeable division between the Labour and Likud parties over U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for Palestinian-Israeli talks may have to lead the two competing blocs to turn to the Israeli voters to decide once and for all which way Israel wants to turn: Peace or war. There may well be no escape from this ultimate test in the wake of Sunday's inner cabinet meeting which substantiated the long held fears that Israel is deeply divided on the issue of war and peace. Even if the leadership of the two parties can succeed in artificially sustaining the life of the national coalition government under the joint leadership of Yitzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres, it will be only a short time before the cohesion between them will collapse under the strain of the hard decisions that Tel Aviv must make on peace talks with the Arabs. Which way the Israeli electorate would turn is still open to conjecture, albeit there are growing signs that the political mood in that country is turning to the right and in the direction of the Likud party. This of course would spell disaster not only to the Arab side but also to the Israeli people themselves who have a vested interest in promoting peace and security in the region. All the peoples of the Middle East, including the Israelis, are therefore at a dangerous crossroad. How the Israeli voters cast their votes in any new elections would thus have a tremendous bearing on the lives and well-being of present and future generations in the Middle East.

Meanwhile it is incumbent on the Arab side, especially the Palestinians, to cultivate Israeli public opinion with the next Israeli elections in mind. There are faint voices from within Israel calling for peace and accommodation with the Arabs and the potential of building on those positive constituencies will always be there, provided the Arab side plays its cards intelligently and wisely. In other words, the Arabs, especially the Palestinians, have to be ready with the right message for the Israeli public now as well as at any other time in the immediate future. Needless to say, communication with the Israelis who want and seek peace with the Arabs can take many shapes and forms and is not necessarily confined to formal negotiating tables. After all, everything the Arab side does or says is a form of communication as far as their enemies are concerned. That is why all Arab political moves must be measured and calculated with a view to having the optimum effect on the Israeli voters in these trying times.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL RA'I daily said Monday that the United States had lost its credibility by proving itself unable to deter Israel's practices and irresponsible actions. As a result, it said, the Middle East will be facing more and more dangers. The paper said that the United States and Israel had been working hand-in-hand to abort the idea of an international conference on the Middle East, and had been trying to offer the world in general and the Arab Nation in particular an alternative solution which can only be of benefit to Israel alone.

Whatever the Israelis and the Americans offer now is not feasible for achieving a lasting settlement since what they offer does not support the concept of exchanging land for peace, said the paper. As the U.S.-Israeli alliance continues to fight the idea of an international conference, Israel, for its part, has been intent on escalating its atrocities and repressive measures against the Palestinians, the paper continued. To deal with the absence of U.S. credibility and Israel's intransigence, the paper said, the Arabs should reconsider their position carefully and should take proper measures to ensure solidarity concerted and collective action so as to secure their rights and their lands.

Writing to Al Ra'i daily Monday columnist Salah Abdul Samad criticises parliament deputies for requesting this Saturday's session be held behind closed doors and says that it is important for the public to know the facts about one of the most delicate topics — corruption and the country's debts.

The columnist says that the people who elected deputies did so in the hope that their representatives would not only protect the people's rights but also monitor and control the executive authority's performance. The masses' right to know everything that goes on in the government should be respected because, after all, it is the people who pay the price and it is the people's interests which are at stake, the writer continued. He says that certain parliament sessions could be held behind closed doors if they are dedicated to discussing such delicate questions as military and armed forces affairs, but all other sessions should be open to the public because the people want to know all the facts.

He says that in the election campaign deputies had been very candid and open in their accusations and the debates over the budget and confidence in the new government were no less stormy and sometimes boisterous. Why then should discussions over the questions of corruption and national debts be held in secret? asks the writer. He says the masses have the right to know the facts so that they can determine those elements responsible for their present difficulties and also because they have the right to monitor the actions of the government and alike.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily expressed belief that the current developments in the Middle East would lead to one direction: war. The paper quoted statements by American officials in the Reagan administration as saying that the Jewish immigration to Palestine, Israel's intransigent position and Shamir's plans can only lead the Arabs to loose hope of regaining their lands and rights by peaceful means. The paper said that any war that might break out in the region should be squarely blamed on Israel's irresponsible actions and its disregard to the rights of the Palestinian people. Indeed, said the paper, Israel's continued actions against the uprising and the settlement of Jews on Arab land is tantamount to a declaration of war on the Arab states.

The View from Fourth Circle

Adjusting right along

By Rami G. Khouri

IN the economic realm, the people of Jordan have travelled a rough and uncomfortable road during the past two years. I do not want to add my retrospective assessment of why and how we put on one of the greatest displays of national economic mismanagement and irresponsibility in the second half of the 20th Century. We do need to assess the mistakes of the recent past in order to make sure that we do not repeat them again in the near future, but that is an exercise which I and many other people expect to be initiated and conducted by the parliament.

Rather, we need to concentrate today on getting through the difficult years that lie ahead, and particularly on trying to forge a new national economic model that would define a more realistic relationship between the government, the private sector and the ordinary citizen — a relationship whose pivotal and most essential component is honesty and truth.

The economic adjustment process we are passing through is not an academic exercise; nor is it a macabre form of nationalistic radical chic, in which we have to reach and peer over the edge of being an economic basket case in order to show that we, too, are a modern country capable of the ineptitudes that are the prerogative of sovereign states and rational individuals. It is painful and humiliating, and, if not carefully counter-balanced by social equity policies, can endanger people's wellbeing, particularly the physical and mental development of the young.

Economic adjustment is an uncomfortable and risky business. It does not always work smoothly or quickly — Sudan and Syria have been adjusting since the early 1980s, Egypt since soon after the creation of the world — and it entails real hardships that are translated into the daily food, clothing, education and shelter budgets of every family in the country. Economic adjustment is also a rather clever and fancy term coined by some bureaucratic economists somewhere in a dispassionate and detached office more welcoming to statistics than to real people. It would be more honest to talk about what economic adjustment really entails: dropping standards of living, lower per capita GNP, curtailed government spending, fewer public sector job opportunities, rising unemployment, less imports, currency devaluation, rising inflation, lower real purchasing power, severe constraints on family budgets.

That's the bad news. The good news is that all these uncomfortable dynamics should turn around the economy and relaunch it on a path of sustained real growth, more realistically based on exploiting domestic resources and less heavily reliant on foreign aid or inflows of remittances from abroad.

I believe that economic adjustment will work in Jordan, and we already have some relevant positive indications from the performance of the economy in 1989 — notably the rise in exports and the drop in imports, the stabilisation of the dinar, and the positive developments in reducing government spending and narrowing the budget deficit. These are only initial indicators. Much more has to happen before they build up sufficient momentum to

re-draw the economic patterns of the country in a rational manner.

I also feel that we have several very important national assets which will serve us well in the adjustment and post-adjustment period — if we do not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed by our deep sense of scepticism and our bad habit of asking the government to provide us with all our needs. These assets include, most notably, a relatively highly educated and skilled workforce; a largely free enterprise economy in which private initiative can be translated into personal gain; a healthy diversification among our main economic sectors, including agriculture, light industry, mineral-based export industry, tourism and services; a strategic location amidst large oil-fuelled Arab markets to which we are tied through trade promotion agreements; similarly advantageous trade agreements with the European Community; the firm support of friends throughout the world who are committed to helping our economic development; and a government that has recognised its limits, and is learning to stay out of economic and administrative fields in which it has no business. The rescheduling of foreign debt, by providing breathing space, is also an important short-term advantage.

These factors, if properly mixed and exploited, will allow Jordan to get through the current adjustment and return to a path of sustainable, balance and long-term growth by the second half of this decade. They are further helped by the important political factor that has been added to the Jordanian national equation: credible parliamentary life, and a more open, pluralistic domestic political environment in which government officials are increasingly held accountable to the people they serve. When people are involved in making the decisions that will affect their daily life and the future of their children, they will deal with national issues more seriously.

This is what is starting to happen today, and this process should become more mature and productive with every passing year. A key requirement, though, is for the government, the parliament, the media, the universities, the professional groups, and the scores of other grassroots institutions in the country to participate meaningfully in the process of national economic revival and political evolution. During the last two years, immigration was a subject that people were discussing often. Having been hurt badly, people were seriously thinking of responding to Jordan's national challenge by leaving the country. But should we be surprised by this? Isn't it rather logical for someone to leave a society in which he or she has no substantial opportunity to contribute to the marketplace of ideas and the debate on national issues, let alone have an impact on how decisions are made? If your society doesn't treat you seriously and respect you, why should you reciprocate? Good question.

But also a question of the past, because circumstances have started to change today. Jordanians now have an opportunity to participate much more seriously in the debate on national issues

and, through parliament, in the decision-making process itself. But the process is still in its infancy. After all, it was only six months ago that parliamentary elections were held.

Yet, I sense that we still suffer from some of the bad old habits. The first is the assumption that the people should only be told what the government feels they should know. Whether in political or economic fields, we need considerably more information from the government on where we stand, particularly in economic fields. There are only a few cases where genuine national security, or the legitimate sensibilities of our donors and friends, require that substantive information be withheld from the public. If the people are required to do their share in turning around the economy, they need to be much better informed.

The second is that the government often still tries to cover up the hard realities by promising to take care of the people's every need. We are in our mess today precisely because successive governments over a period of decades tried to give the people of Jordan their every wish — schools, hospitals, low-cost houses, jobs, cheap imports, telephones, roads, and a feeling that manual labour was best left for imported workers. Like amenable mice in a comfortable cage with many little bottles for food and water, we adapted to our make-believe world with great facility, and went to the bottles often.

Now, as we need to shed our old habits and live more in line with our means and our capabilities, it is time for the government and the private sector to talk more honestly about what economic adjustment really means. It means lowering our standard of living, buying less of the consumer goods and foodstuffs we used to buy, working harder just to maintain the purchasing power of our family income, having to do jobs we used to leave for foreign workers. It means working our way out of our economic problems, rather than asking the government to bail us out as it always did before. It means seeing per capita gross domestic product decline in real terms. It means leaving the ranks of the Singaporeans and the Thais, perhaps only for a few years, and joining the ranks of the Mexicans and Filipinos.

Some measures (such as the new personal income tax rules) indicate that the government has the awareness and the political will to assure social equity, to help protect the most vulnerable in society while asking greater sacrifices from those who can afford a drop in real income. More of the same needs to be done in the field of subsidies, education, health and other areas.

I sense that most people still have not come to terms with what economic adjustment really means. For many, it is a news story on the evening television news, something between Italian football league scores and the historic changes in Europe. It would probably be best for all concerned if the economic realities of adjustment were more openly discussed, so that the average man or woman on the street knew more clearly about the hardships and the opportunities ahead, and about precisely where we stand today.

East German election heading for stalemate

By Paul Taylor
Reuters

EAST BERLIN — As East Germany's first free election campaign enters its last week, the country seems headed for a stalemate that would make a non-Communist "grand coalition" the only viable form of government.

Latest opinion polls for the March 18 election show the Conservative Alliance for Germany, backed by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, catching up with the left-of-centre Social

Democrats (SPD), and neither bloc able to form a government without the other.

"It's going to be a neck-and-neck race," said Professor Walter Friedrich of the Leipzig Institute for Youth Research.

One conservative leader, Rainer Eppelmann of the Democratic Awakening Party, said at the weekend only a grand coalition with the support of more than 60 per cent of the electorate could negotiate German unification with Bonn.

But some Western diplomats believe such an outcome would

complicate and slow the talks with West Germany, making it harder to reach a consensus on key issues in East Berlin.

The effect of an East German grand coalition on the unity talks is hard to gauge.

Some left-wingers fear the conservatives, beholden to Kohl for their campaign finance, would undermine East Berlin's position in the negotiations.

"It would be like having Helmut Kohl on both sides of the table," a Social Democratic official said.

Only two weeks ago, the SPD looked to be rolling towards a landslide victory in next Sunday's ballot.

Untainted by any link with East Germany's former Stalinist rulers, ousted by a popular uprising last year, the party was quick to build an organisation and boasted a magnetic figurehead in former Bonn Chancellor Willy Brandt.

Eastern Germany had a long tradition of social democracy shattered by Hitler's seizure of power in 1933.

But the conservatives, initially handicapped by the Christian Democrats' 40-year alliance with the communists, have surged in the polls by thrusting Kohl to the fore and hammering on a single issue — German unity as fast as possible.

A poll by Britain's Mori organisation, published in the London Sunday Times, gave the three-party conservative alliance 36 per cent to the SPD's 35 per cent. It was the first survey to put the rightists ahead.

Both parties have vowed they will not form a coalition with the Communists, now renamed the party of Democratic Socialism.

The polls suggest the Communists, boosted by the popularity of reform Prime Minister Hans Modrow, will win enough votes

— up to 15 per cent — to prevent either from being able to govern alone or in a narrow pact with minor parties.

The heroes of East Germany's revolution, the New Forum and Democracy Now movements which led the uprising last October, will be lucky to score more than three per cent, the polls said.

The pro-Communist Berliner Zeitung said in an editorial: "It is quite possible that a vote for the SPD on March 18 will also help the (rightist) alliance for Germany to power."

A broad coalition would make it easier for the Social Democrats to blame the conservatives for much of the unemployment, inflation and social disruption likely to accompany economic and monetary union with Bonn.

That could prove important for West Germany's SPD as they challenge Kohl for power in a

general election next December. The main argument against a grand coalition is that it could open the door to political extremists.

Analysts recall that under West Germany's only grand coalition from 1966 to 1969, the neo-Nazi National Democratic party nearly won enough votes to enter parliament and leftists staged street violence throughout the country.

The leftist urban guerrilla movement known as the Bader-Meinhof Gang was born during that period.

But others believe a grand coalition would help to maintain a national consensus about the difficult decisions to be made. "I know from my friends running the SPD in this part of Germany that even if they won an absolute majority, they would form a government on a broader basis," Brandt told reporters in the border town of Frankfurt-am-Oder.

Libyans reassess the magic system

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

TRIPOLI — Like a genie, Muammar Qadhafi's Libyan revolution, appearing from an oil well instead of a bottle, seemed only to give, never to take.

Now the magic can go no further, say Qadhafi and his aides.

The clash between popular expectations and economic reality set off extraordinarily candid debates this month at the annual meeting of the General People's Congress, Libya's parliament, which ended Saturday.

The government met a barrage of criticism that it has not built enough roads, schools or hospitals.

But the ministers replied: "We are not wizards. We do not have a magic wand... it's just not possible to go on like this."

Under the system elaborated by Qadhafi, decisions of the basic people's congresses are supposed to be passed up through branches and municipalities to the General People's Congress, where members have no right to express their own opinions.

In practice, over the past week, members repeatedly broke the rule and others intervened to reprimand them.

"A vicious circle," "A revolution without revolutionaries," "the state gives, the individual gets," are some of the descriptions applied to Qadhafi's 13-year experiment with direct democracy financed by oil revenues.

Siding with efforts to check the demands from the grassroots, one congress member said: "Every-one wants free health, free education, free everything, even free food. But when we discuss these demands, we must also discuss how to finance them."

A foreign publisher invited to the congress said: "If you ask people what they want and add it all together, you tend to end up with a policy which is not always very coherent."

Congress members are unanimous that the principles of the

system are sound — that the people, meeting in local assemblies called basic people's congresses, should dictate government policy and monitor its performance.

"Where else in the world does the individual have such an impact? Where else do people have such freedom?" asked one congresswoman.

Local assemblies, set up when enormous oil exports made balanced budgets unnecessary, have grown accustomed to demanding money from the government while offering nothing in return. Ministers did not challenge the principles of the system but complained of irresponsibility and lack of realism. Qadhafi himself declared: "It is inconceivable that (the assemblies) should show such ignorance."

Cabinet secretary (prime minister) Omar Muntasser hinted at a need to reassess the balance between local assemblies, the supreme authority in Libya, and those expected to carry out their orders.

"It may be necessary to amend the method of public policy so as to reconcile the exercise of authority through legislation and its implementation in reality," his annual report read.

Revolutionary militants in the congress objected to some of the ministers' comments, calling them provocative.

"This could be understood as an insult to the basic people's congresses, the sole authority. We may forgive this but we will not forget it," said one.

Another said: "The ministers blame the municipalities, the municipalities say they will study the proposals, the branches say they have no powers. In the era of the masses we are turning in a vicious circle."

In a heated debate on the work of the secretariat (ministry) of mass mobilisation and revolutionary guidance, several ministers or members lamented a lack of revolutionary commitment.

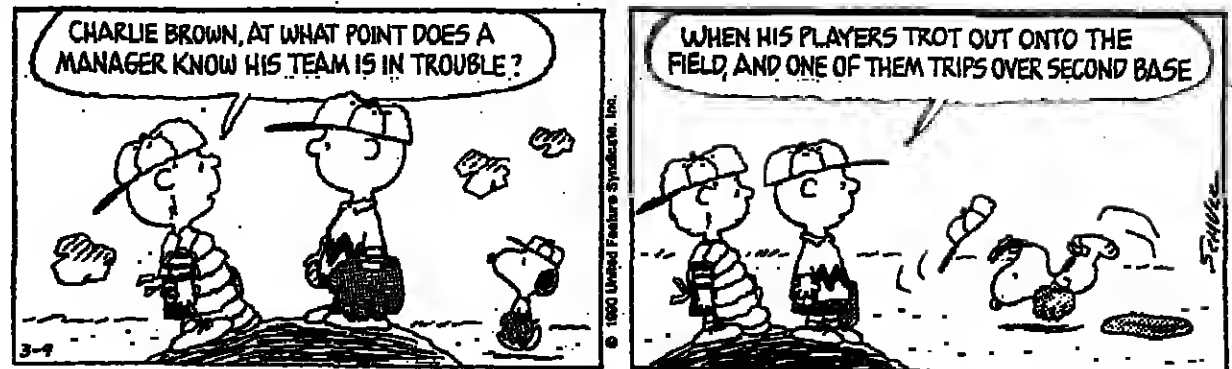
Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



د. محمد عبد الله

'Exorcism is performed for people under the highest form of attack by an evil spirit — people who are no longer in charge of their own will.'

Disclosure of exorcism in New York hits theologians

By Kiley Armstrong
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Theologians have expressed surprise about Cardinal John O'Connor's disclosure that the rare rite of exorcism has been performed twice in New York in a year.

But other ceremonies dealing with evil spirits, including a baptismal prayer, are more common in the Roman Catholic church. O'Connor mentioned the exorcisms during a sermon March 4, and to reporters afterward. He said rock music spiked with satanic lyrics created an atmosphere conducive to devil-worship and demonic possession.

The cardinal said the exorcisms were approved by the archdiocese's vicar-general and appeared to be successful, but gave no other details. He also said the novel, "The Exorcist," is a "gruesomely authentic" portrayal of demonic possession.

According to a story published Dec. 12 in the San Francisco Chronicle, Pope John Paul II recently increased the number of exorcists in Rome and in Turin, where there are a reported 40,000 devil worshippers.

Police in the State of Indiana has recently asked an unidentified priest to pray and sprinkle holy water in a house after they saw a radio, a vase and other objects inexplicably move. They had been called to investigate a possible burglary after the resident came home and found smashed dishes, windows, a lamp and eggs. A 14-year-old relative who had been staying there was believed to have been involved in devil worship, authorities said.

The Rev. Simon Harak, a theology professor at Fairfield University, a Jesuit school, said that exorcism, recognised in the church's book of rituals, is performed for people under the highest form of attack by an evil spirit — people "who are no longer in charge of their own will."

Exorcists are confidential; no figures are kept on the number performed in the United States, said Bill Ryan, spokesman for the U.S. Catholic Conference in Washington, D.C. Although channelling — the phenomenon of spirits speaking through humans — has similarities to demonic possession, the spirits that emerge in channelling, however, are supposed to be good, not evil, according to the Rev. James T. Burchielli, theology professor at Notre Dame University, another Roman Catholic school.

Exorcism existed before the time of Christ, but is rare in modern times, and both Burchielli and Harak said they were surprised there would have been two exorcisms in a year in New York. Harak noted the rite may gain prevalence in times or places of satanic worship.

"In the Gospels, there's quite a bit of reference to Jesus not only healing people of diseases but freeing them from diabolical possession," Burchielli said.

"Ever since then, there have been outbreaks of similar behaviour," he said. "It was found that when very holy priests were sent to pray for and about these very troubled people, there would be an increase in the behaviour, then eventually a complete liberation from it."

Exorcism is more common in countries where Christianity is not well established or where other influences, such as voodoo, come into play. Since the 1970's, exorcism has been performed only by a priest approved by a bishop, archbishop or cardinal.

"If you ask most bishops in the country, 'who is your exorcist?' they probably wouldn't have one. It's an ad hoc thing," said Burchielli. "Probably a number of bishops would be surprised to hear there were two in New York," one of the largest dioceses in the nation.

Typically, he said, an exorcist must be a "very self-possessed, consistently holy man" to survive the experience. "It involves a great deal of self-abuse, bodies being flung around the room, screaming, assumed voices — it's pretty vile stuff."

"The average Catholic would have no first-hand information to speak of," he said. "The darn movie (the Exorcist) is going to be the image everybody has. But,

I must say, events in the movie are very faithful to stories I've read" about real exorcisms.

A battery of medical and psychological tests is ordered before someone undergoes exorcism. "If a person has lupus, for instance, and periodically has seizures where they go out of control, that's a chemical imbalance," said Harak.

But there also are informal rites to get rid of, or guard against, demons.

Harak said a standard, prebaptismal ritual contains "three scrutinies that are really rites of exorcism that have been kind of tamed in the church."

"It's a recognition that there are good spirits, angels, and bad spirits, devils. And the evil spirit hates human nature," Harak said.

The church also has a practice called deliverance for ridding "infestations of evil spirit," less serious than possession, said Harak. They are performed somewhere in this country every day, by laity as well as priests.

"Usually, the name of Jesus, holy water, holy oils, prayers of community are so powerful that these deliverances are not difficult. Many of us do them."

"Say you've been fooling around with a Ouija board, or the more modern thing, dungeons and dragons. You chant incantations and stuff like that." Those practices could make you susceptible to evil spirits, he said, especially if you have a psychological or emotional problem.



This pile of rubble has been a landmark in the centre of Dresden for four and a half decades. The statue of Martin Luther, foreground, used to stand in front of the finest Baroque church in central Germany. Plans are now taking shape to rebuild Dresden's famous Frauenkirche — (Photo: DaD/dpa)

A memorial for peace and freedom

DRESDEN (DaD) — Like a finger raised in warning, remnants of the old walls peep out of the pile of rubble that for 45 years has been all that is left of the Frauenkirche in Dresden. Once the finest Baroque church in central Germany, the Frauenkirche, destroyed on Feb. 13, 1945 in British and U.S. air raids, is not just any church. Its ruins have come to symbolise the desire for self-determination of people in the former Saxon royal capital. During last autumn's popular uprising they were a meeting-point for many protest demonstrations. The city and the Protestant

Church now plan to rebuild the church to its original plans. They are confident of financial support and encouragement from the Protestant Church in the Federal Republic of Germany, which largely financed the reconstruction of the Dom, or cathedral, in East Berlin.

The Protestant people of Dresden built Frauenkirche between 1726 and 1739 as a protest against the Saxony royal family's conversion to Roman Catholicism. Its cupola was the hallmark of the City's skyline. Since the 1945 air raid in which 35,000 died, people have regularly met on Feb. 13,

for a candlelight procession in protest against the militarisation of public life, for peace and freedom and against the claim of the ruling SED to sole power. It was, for years, a silent protest. Then, on 8 October 1989, the people of Dresden, like fellow-demonstrators in Leipzig and East Berlin, chanted the slogan "Wir sind das Volk!" (We are the People).

The ruined church thus became a meeting-point of the popular uprising in the GDR. This new significance has prompted a civic initiative to campaign for rebuilding of the church, complete with its old tower. The campaigners

include many public figures in the GDR, restorers of historic monuments and leading Saxon Protestant clergymen. Their spokesman is the internationally renowned trumpet soloist Ludwig Güttler. They are hopeful of support from the Federal government in Bonn. Reconstruction of the Frauenkirche in Dresden is to be more than just the reconstruction of a historic monument. It is planned as a gesture to mark the end of shock caused by the 1945 air raid in which much of the city was destroyed and of the standstill brought about by 40 years of communist rule.

Know-how equals muscle-power in Eritrea

By Paul Highfield

WINA, ERITREA: The garage in which Zaid, a mechanic, works is unusual. It is a simple, space enclosed by shrubs and trees. These camouflage it against air attack. The working day is a gruelling 11 hours.

Senait, who repairs radios and other equipment a few kilometres away, also has an unusual working environment — in an underground workshop. Two other unusual things are that neither Zaid nor Senait is paid, and both are young women.

They graduated from one of Africa's most remarkable technical schools in a country torn by civil war. Zaid and Senait are Eritreans, citizens of a region in its 29th year of armed struggle for independence from Ethiopia.

The two women are "fighters." A term applied to any member of the Eritrean people's Liberation Front (EPLF), the de facto government in most of rural Eritrea. The EPLF has many civilian departments, as well as a large army which fights a combination of

"Most of rural Eritrea, which seeks its independence from Ethiopia, is controlled by a rebel government. Lacking skilled workers for its development programme, it has founded a technical school where half the students are women."

trench and guerrilla warfare with captured weaponry. No EPLF member receives pay.

Zaid and Senait studied at the Zero School, started 1985, where 4,000 boarding students live in a narrow mountain valley. Many are orphaned. The war is over far away from the children's minds, though the EPLF tries to provide a settled and peaceful environment. This is not easy when warplanes scream overhead and students have seen their parents killed in their villages.

After completing Grade 7, Zaid, Senait and 80 other students left Zero to begin a two-year course at the EPLF's first,

purpose-built technical school, at Wina in Sahel province. They were to become the first of a new generation of technical workers trained to assist Eritrea's development.

At the time of the 1974 revolution, when Haile Selassie was overthrown by the Derg, the provisional military administration council which governs Ethiopia — many technicians fled from the cities. Others were killed during this period of repression and technical schools in Eritrea were closed.

Some technicians went abroad, others to areas controlled by the EPLF. But their numbers were



must have a minimum number of pupils. But one of them said to me: "We study what the people need us to study."

Adapting to a technical culture in a rural society with higher than 80 per cent illiteracy is not easy for girls or boys, even at the most basic level — how to handle and look after a radio, for example, or even to turn the pages of a book without doing damage. But the youngsters there are highly motivated.

Activities at the school reveal a high degree of self-reliance and resourcefulness. Workshops produce doors and windows from captured ammunition boxes while cooking utensils are fashioned from the beaten metal of donated cooking-oil tins.

The girls are used to hard physical work. It is not uncommon to see them returning in pairs from an eight-hour trek to the mountains, carrying huge tree trunks for house construction. Recently a girl won first prize in construction — Panos feature.

They cannot always study their first choice because each class

The Sphinx turns victim of its own glory, success

By Deborah Pugh

CAIRO, Egypt — After years of argument over the future of the Pyramids — and what to do about damage to the Sphinx in particular, the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation (EAO) has embarked on a new renovation programme. This has coincided with the recent inauguration of a sewage draining scheme for the Pyramids area, the first practical step to protect the 4,800-year-old Sphinx from rising sewage water.

The magnificent limestone figure, on the outskirts of Cairo and said to depict the Pharaoh Chephren, has been deteriorating ever since a protective covering of sand was removed from its 240-foot high body in the 1920s. Its exposure took place just as rapid industrial, agricultural and tourism development began in Egypt. Each sector has added to the physical pressures on Egypt's heritage of Pharaonic, Roman, Christian and Islamic monuments.

The sewage draining scheme is aimed at cleaning up the squatter settlement at Nazlet Essiman, which has mushroomed over the last decade in the shadow of the Pyramids, drawn by the dollars of the thousands of tourists who arrive daily in their huge tour buses. Waste water from the village is absorbed by the porous limestone from which the Sphinx is carved and eventually crumbles the rock.

Apart from the rising water table and the polluting effect of the tour buses, the settlement's sewage and fires generate "chemical pollutants three times greater than the limit permitted in archaeological areas", says Dr. Felki Hassan, an archaeologist heading the panel of experts studying the area's problems.

L Hassan has a vision of the Pyramids terrain as a "sanctuary". But his vision is bitterly opposed by the commercial interests it would curb. Much of the squatter settlement would be removed, including the trashy shops selling "authentic" Pharaonic souvenirs. The huge tour buses belching fumes would be banned from the immediate vicinity and replaced with an electric cart shuttle service.

The plan has generated much controversy but the minister of culture, Farouk Hosni, who is responsible for Egypt's antiquities, appears set to back it.

Specialists recognise that it is not enough to protect only the immediate environment of the Sphinx: air pollution in Cairo is so intense that a wide-ranging programme is required. The government is already committed to limit pollution by installing filters on the three state cement factories located only a few miles from the Giza plateau on which the Sphinx crouches. These factories spew out a staggering 2,000 tonnes of cement dust daily.

But no action has been taken to reduce the car pollution plaguing the health of 12 million Cairenes as well as scouring the surfaces of the city's historic buildings.

"After surviving for 4,800 years, one of the world's oldest monuments, the Sphinx, is under assault from the advance of civilisation — threatened by rising human sewage, smoke and car exhausts. Now Egypt has a programme to save the monument."

The high-sulphur petrol used by the city's one million cars emit sulphuric and nitric emissions which attack the surface of the Sphinx and other monuments, producing a thin crust, says Dr. Al Gorey, an Egyptian scientist. "With the first sand storm, these thin layers are sand-blasted and a fresh surface becomes exposed."

This constant removal of the surface has led to a loss of detail of the Sphinx's features which will soon be impossible to restore. Work will begin soon on bonding the cracks which give rise to serious concern, especially since part of a shoulder fell off two years ago, prompting the dismissal of the then chairman of the EAO.

Its new head, Professor Sayed Tawfiq, told journalists in Cairo recently that work was going ahead on the Sphinx. He said the situation was critical and that renovations had started with the aim of restoring the monument to its 1962 condition. UNESCO and the Getty Conservation Institute are providing help.

Tawfiq's urgency in proceeding with the restoration of the Sphinx, which is still suffering from former hasty interventions, is in sharp contrast with the World Bank's difficulty in getting EAO to respond over the restoration of four Pharaonic tombs suffering the effects of Egypt's outstanding success in encouraging tourists to visit historic sites.

At the end of last year, despite four extensions of the deadline for a restoration loan, the EAO, lost over \$5 million from the bank (to have been repaid over 40 years at 0.25 per cent interest) earmarked for works to protect these exquisite and delicate tombs.

Tawfiq had dismissed the elegant prototype proposed by the Swedes, for the protection of the tombs of the Tomb of Nefertiti, as being too "like a boutique". The EAO failed, however, to come up with an alternative plan during the decade in which the credit was available.

Tourism is currently Egypt's number two foreign currency earner, generating over \$2 billion in 1989. Having heavily backed Egypt's tourist industry, the World Bank is nervously alert to the fact that an Egypt with decayed antiquities will attract few tourists — PANOS features.

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Soccer and instinct

By Ken Shuman

ROME — There are sports heroes who are forgotten, heroes who are disgraced, and heroes who are unmasked as frauds or cheats once they have left the stadium. And then there are sports heroes like Bobby Charlton, who live their life with the same dignity and grace which so distinguished them during their playing days.

Charlton was the driving force behind the English team which won the 1966 World Cup tournament. A classic, talented centerforward, Charlton appeared in English league a record 106 times and scored 49 goals in international play. Yet even more than his individual exploits, Charlton was admired as the head and heart of the English eleven, and of his beloved Manchester United. His outstanding play won him the European Soccer Player award in 1967, while his intelligence and manners led to his being knighted as a Commander of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II.

Today Charlton runs a string of athletic schools in the United Kingdom and abroad where schoolchildren receive instruction in 19 separate sports. He is also on the board of directors of Manchester United, and works as a television soccer commentator for the BBC. "I try to be as natural as possible on the air," Charlton said during a recent interview. "You can't worry all the time about what you should be saying. The best thing you can do is just to let it happen. Because you can't hide on television; there is no place to go."

"On the soccer field, it's very easy to hide. Lots of players do it. At a certain point they just drift away from the action — looking for shadows, we used to call it. After a while, a fan in the stands will notice that he hasn't seen a certain player for 20 or 30 minutes. Good players always want the ball," he adds, linking his hands together in his lap. "Players like Pele, like Maradona, or like Rudi Gullit, who love the game so much that they always want to play."

Charlton never looked for shadows on the soccer field, and he is still on the offensive. At 52 he wears his years well, explaining that he teaches soccer and plays golf to keep fit. He is attentive, articulate and frank. "The golf course used to be the only place where they couldn't call you on the phone," says Charlton, who plays out of an enviable 10 handicap. "But nowadays that's changed as well."

Even soccer has changed, including the part he used to play in the team. "In my time it was essential that a centerforward be fast, strong and that he be very good in the air. He had to be good in the air because most goals were scored with his head. And he had to be strong to be able to rough it up with the defenders. The referees in those days were a lot more lenient than they are today, and a centerforward more or less had carte blanche to do what he pleased."

"There are some old-style centerforwards playing today," he muses.

"Players like Mark Hateley, or Italy's Aldo Serena. And this type of player is still precious, because a team can always use a good goal scorer. The small, agile, Gary Lineker-type forward is a product of the modern game."

Charlton was a natural at soccer and took his first steps with miles who were professional players. His brother Jackie also started for England and now coaches the Irish national team.

"I honestly can't remember not knowing how to play," Charlton confesses, adding that he never tires of watching the game and rarely tires of discussing it. For the 1990 World Cup, he favours Italy, Holland, Germany and the Soviet Union, and of course England. "The English have as good a chance of winning as anyone else in the tournament... Their style of play is much more similar to the other European teams now. It's only in league play that the English clubs play their traditional all-out running game of long passes and crosses. And this is mostly because our fans demand that sort of game. In

international competition, even the English tighten up."

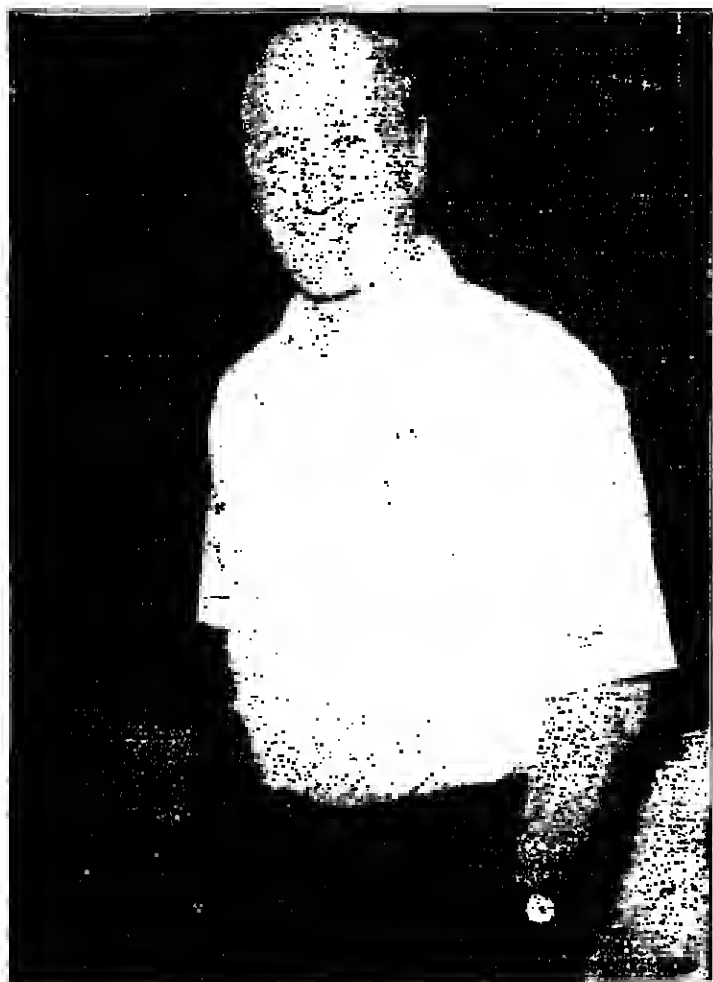
More important than its tactics, Charlton believes that a team's success ultimately depends on its players and their motivation. "England's captain Bobby Robson is the bravest player on any field," he says. "He wins the ball, he sets up his teammates, he scores, he marks his man, in short he is everything a good English soccer player is supposed to be."

Charlton also respects Peter Beardsley and John Barnes of Liverpool, and Chris Waddle who plays in the French first division for Marseille. The three men form the current English attack. Of England's probable opponents, Charlton selects Dutch midfielder Ruud Gullit as a hot favorite — "he has a tremendous on-field presence, which you cannot underestimate; he is also quite good with the ball when it's on the floor."

Another favourite is Marco Van Basten, who plays long-side Gullit for the Dutch national team and also for Milan in the Italian league. "Van Basten always manages to find the space to receive the ball, protect it, and get off a shot. And I am always partial to a man who has a taste for putting the ball into the net. He is a forward who could have played in any era."

Among the Italians Charlton singles out forward Gianluca Vialli — "he is a very inspiring player, sort of the standard bearer of the Italian team. The Italians play extremely good defense, but they don't have many goal scorers. If Vialli plays well in the World Cup, the Italians have an excellent chance."

Charlton also praises the West German standouts: "Lothar Matthaus is a typical



Bobby Charlton

Germano midfielder, strong, powerful, efficient and a good thinker. He is not what I'd call an instinctive player, but he is a great shot. He will definitely have a role in the 1990 tournament."

The Soviet Union represents a very interesting case for Charlton. "The USSR team has all the players, all the skills, and the conditioning to go all the way in the World Cup," he says. "But they have had these qualities for quite a while, yet they have never won a major competition, either on the club or the national level. Who knows? Perhaps it's the

fault of the Communist system, of the way the players are motivated."

"In soccer, you have got to be instinctive to win," he explains. "A true champion has to pass through a barrier of pain on his way to victory. This is not something you can do for a system, or because you have been drilled to do it. You pass through this barrier only for yourself. I think it will be very interesting with the advent of Gorbachev to see if his (policy of) perestroika has seeped onto the Soviet soccer field." World News Link

Real dream of records as Milan, Napoli battle on

WHILE AC Milan and Napoli battle for the Italian league soccer title, Real Madrid have already begun wondering out loud which Spanish record they will shatter first. Coach John Toshack wants Real to hit the 100 goal mark but Mexican marksman Hugo Sanchez is more concerned with 36.

The Spanish champions, their fifth successive league title looking more and more a foregone conclusion, have already scored 84 goals this season with nine

league matches remaining.

They are well on target to beat the 96-goal record set by arch-rivals Barcelona in 1958-59 but their Welsh coach wants to do better than that to crown his first season in the job.

"We are on the right track to reach that 100-goal figure," he said after Real defeated Real Sociedad, the last team to beat the champions in November last year, 3-0 at home Sunday.

Sanchez scored his 30th goal of the season during the match to take his tally to within six goals of the scoring record set by Telmo Zarra of athletic Bilbao in the 1950-51 season.

As midfielder Michel Gonzalez said Sunday, league matches have become a mere formality for Real. They are 10 points clear of Barcelona, who demolished lowly Celta 6-0 at home.

Atletico Madrid are in third place, behind Barcelona on goal difference, but new coach Joaquin Peiro — who made a disappointing start with a goalless draw at Castellon — refused to accept city rivals Real's claims on the league title.

"Mathematically the league is not yet decided and though it's difficult to catch up with Real Madrid we must not throw in the towel," he said, promising to get better performances from the team than his predecessor Javier Clemente.

Napoli captain Diego Maradona was among the first to gloat as First Division leaders AC Milan took a 3-0 hammering by Juventus which hauled the Argentine World Cup captain's team one point closer to their northern Italian rivals.

"Thank you, Juventus, but let's hope you won't be as strong when

stocky midfielder when told of Milan's first defeat in 16 league matches.

"It goes to show that AC Milan don't belong to another planet as some people say," Maradona added.

"Sometimes even the rich cry," he said. Maradona's delight was dimmed by Napoli's failure to cash in on AC Milan's collapse, throwing away a chance to tie at the top of the league with a 1-1 draw to sixth-from-bottom Lecce.

Milan's defeat left them looking shaky just four days after a surprising goalless draw with Belgium's Mechelen in a tense first-leg quarter-final clash for the European Cup.

"They were faster and more determined. We were in too much of a hurry to catch up, we left holes in our defence," said AC Milan trainer Arrigo Sacchi. "I'm not pleased with my players and I'm convinced we'll win the league."

If French Second Division Valenciennes and Avignon sole the headlines by beating top clubs Toulon and Brest respectively in the second round of the cup, it was leaders Bordeaux who looked most impressive at the weekend.

Putting some indifferent league form behind them, Bordeaux moved back into top gear with an 8-0 rampage at Third Division St. Lo. West German striker Klaus Allofs scored a hat-trick and his Dutch partner Piet Den Boer pitched in with a brace.

In West Germany, few doubt Bayern Munich will take their record tally of league titles to 12 this year despite a constant injury list. On Saturday they travelled to Hamburg and humbled the once-mighty North German team 3-0.

Sapporo gets practice, little money

SAPPORO, Japan (AP) — For this veteran winter sports host city, the current Asian Winter Games are not a money-maker. But they provide practice for yet another major meet here.

In 1972, Sapporo became the first Asian city to play host to the Winter Olympics. The skating rinks and other facilities built then have been used in two Asian Winter Games, and next year, the Winter World University Games will come to Sapporo.

This city of 1.6 million people was asked one year ago to repeat as Asian games host after India gave up plans to stage the winter sports fest.

There is almost no income from television, and ticket sales are expected to account for only \$175,000 of the total budget of \$3.33 million, said Hiroshi Ikeda, councilor of the games' organizing committee.

Many of the spectators have come from Japan's 700,000-member Korean community. They wave South or North Korean flags, and South Korean partisans began singing their country's anthem last Friday night when the public address system played the Mongolian and North Korean anthems before putting on the right anthem for a South Korean gold medalist.

Ikeda said the Sapporo city and Hokkaido prefectural governments together are providing \$1.33 million of these games' costs.

U.A.E. football coach resigns

DUBAI (AP) — The World Cup finalist soccer team of the United Arab Emirates, which came in last at the recent Gulf Cup tournament, Monday announced that the national coach Bernard Blant has resigned.

Blant, appointed only in January after his Brazilian predecessor Mario Zagalo was fired, tendered his resignation after criticism for his handling of the team at the 10th Gulf Cup Games in Kuwait.

The U.A.E. which is taking part in the World Cup finals for the first time, finished behind Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and Iraq in the Gulf tournament which ended last Friday.

Polish-born Blant was coach of a local club in the U.A.E. Emirate of Sharjah when Zagalo was sacked in January. U.A.E. Football Federation sources said that former national coach Carlos Alberto Parreira is likely to be recalled.

Brazilian Parreira coached the U.A.E. team for four

years but in 1988 switched suddenly to neighboring Saudi Arabia in a deal which soured football relations between the two Gulf countries.

Parreira quit his Saudi Arabian job before the Gulf Cup and is said to be keen to return. Parreira is a former Brazilian coach like Zagalo, and has worked with all the current U.A.E. national players.

The U.A.E. Football Federation is scheduled to hold a special meeting late Monday with the national team and make a decision on the new coach.

There is speculation that

Zagalo who steered the country to the World Cup finals is also shortlisted by the beleaguered U.A.E. Football Association.

Zagalo reportedly was dismissed for demanding more money in a new contract.

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Head of Special Tenders Committee

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North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH			
♠ A 10 9 7 4 2			
♥ Q J 4			
♦ 2			
♣ Q J 5			
WEST		EAST	
♠ 3		♠ 6 5	
♥ 10 6 3 2		♥ K 7 5	
♦ Q 7 6 5 4 3		♦ J 10 9 8	
♣ 10 5		♣ K 8 7 2	
SOUTH			
♠ K Q J 8			
♥ A 9 8			
♦ A K			
♣ A 9 6 4			

The bidding:
South West North East
2 NT Pass 3 7 Pass
4 7 Pass 4 NT Pass
5 6 Pass 5 7 Pass
5 6 Pass 6 6 Pass
Pass

Opening lead: Five of 0
Some hands require declarer to take the percentage line and hope the cards are favorably distributed. Others have a sure-trick solution, which permits declarer to claim the contract early. This hand could have been claimed at trick one.

North's three-heart response and later five-heart bid were transfer bids requesting partner to bid

spades. South's initial rebid announced a maximum in support of spades and his five-club response to Blackwood showed either three aces or none. North had no hesitation about bidding the excellent slam. Can you claim your contract?

This hand was played by Venezuelan internationalist and current New York resident David Berah in an invitational event in London. He won the king of diamonds, cashed the king of spades and ace of diamonds, on which he discarded a heart, then drew the last trump ending in dummy. Now he led the queen of clubs, and the contract was cold whether it won or lost.

If the finesse won, declarer would concede a trick to the king of hearts, then stuff one of the table's clubs on the ace of hearts. If the finesse lost, West would be endplayed. A heart return would solve declarer's problem in that suit; a club would run to the A 9 in the closed hand, and declarer would have an extra club set up to take care of one of dummy's hearts. And a diamond would allow declarer to ruff in hand while discarding a heart from the board.

So the best way to play the hand is obvious. Claim the contract at trick one before you have the chance to make a mistake!

Jordan Times
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Top Muslim militant killed in clash with troops

Indian president warns Pakistan against interfering in Kashmir

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — President Ramaswamy Venkataraman Monday accused Pakistan of aiding Muslim secessionists in troubled Kashmir state and said India will not "tolerate such interference."

"Our relations with Pakistan have unfortunately come under strain as a result of its continued effort to encourage and aid terrorism and secessionist activity" in Jammu-Kashmir, he told parliament.

"My government has made it very clear that we will not tolerate such interference in our internal affairs," Venkataraman said in a speech to the joint meeting of both houses of parliament.

The speech, which opened the 75-day budget session, was broadcast live by state-run television and radio.

India has frequently accused Pakistan of arming and training militants fighting for secession of the northern, Muslim-dominated state of Jammu-Kashmir from predominantly Hindu India. Pakistan denies the charge.

Jammu-Kashmir is "an integral part of the India and my government will not brook any interference," the president said.

Parliament members clapped and thumped their palms on their desks.

The Kashmir issue has been one of the first major tests of the new government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh, who took office in December, replacing the Con-

gress Party's Rajiv Gandhi. The Kashmir secession has been simmering since 1947 when India and Pakistan were formed by the partition of the British colonial India. Faced with the option of merging with either of the two nascent states, Jammu-Kashmir, then a princely state with a Hindu ruler, opted for India.

Pakistan claimed the state because of its predominantly Muslim population and has fought two wars with India over the region. Pakistan controls the Western part of the old princely state, while India governs the eastern portion.

Meanwhile, Indian authorities cancelled a scheduled curfew break in Kashmir's summer capital, Srinagar, Monday after news spread that a top separatist militant was killed in a clash with security forces.

Fayaz Ahmad died in hospital Sunday night after he was shot by paramilitary troops during a gun-battle with militants in the narrow streets of Srinagar's old city.

Police said new tension gripped the city, the centre of a violent separatist revolt in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, as news of

his death spread.

They said they feared big protests if the curfew, which officials have tried to impose for most of the last two months to curb the violence, was temporarily lifted.

"We withdrew the curfew break as a precaution," said a top police official. "We will review the situation later."

Police said Ahmad, who was in his early 20s, was a senior leader of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), the group spearheading the separatist revolt in the Himalayan valley.

Militants are demanding that Jammu and Kashmir be given independence or be made part of neighbouring Pakistan. Almost 200 people have died since mid-January when authorities began cracking down on pro-independence demonstrations.

In Jammu, the winter capital of Indian-ruled Kashmir, intelligence officials said the JKLF had turned down flat an approach from New Delhi on holding peace talks.

Railway Minister George Fernandes said in Srinagar last week while visiting leaders of Indian political parties that he had met people in touch with the JKLF with an offer of talks.

The intelligence officials, while refusing to name Fernandes, said Monday a cabinet minister had met professor Abdul Gani, head of the Muslim Conference Party

who had just been detained under anti-terrorist laws for alleged links to the militants.

The JKLF's answer was a refusal to negotiate and meant that nothing short of independence was acceptable, they said.

Pakistan said Sunday it was willing to hold conditional talks with India to resolve their dispute over it.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto told political leaders she was willing to talk, "but not at the expense of our principled stand on Kashmir."

Pakistan denies India's accusation that it arms and trains Kashmiri rebels, saying the revolt stems from India's refusal to hold a promised plebiscite on Kashmir's future.

Kashmir has become the major problem for the three-month-old government of Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh. During every curfew break, protests are held and militants attack.

In Jammu, which is mostly Hindu, shops and schools closed Monday in response to a call from the chamber of commerce for a general strike in protest against Muslim violence.

At least 16,000 Hindus have fled to Jammu from the Kashmir Valley despite repeated Muslim assurances that the protests are political not sectarian.

S. African townships tense as violence subsides

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Black areas of South Africa remained tense Monday although the death toll from political violence fell.

Killings, bombing and looting in black townships and homelands have been taking an average daily toll of six lives in recent weeks but police reported only two deaths in the past 24 hours.

A black policeman shot dead a man who tried to take his shotgun in poverty-stricken Botshabelo settlement in Orange Free State province and police found the stabbed body of a 15-year-old boy in Nancefield township in Transvaal province.

The deaths brought to at least 17 the number shot, hacked or burned to death in weekend violence as black youths around the country attacked the homes of black policemen and municipal officials, widely seen as traitors to the black cause.

Many of the gun, rock and petrol bomb attacks were met by police firing shotguns, pistols, rubber bullets or tear gas.

Hundreds of residents fled Vosloorus near Johannesburg Sunday when 1,000 Zulu migrant workers from Natal province attacked homes in the township.

The Zulus were taking revenge for the burning of their hostel Saturday in what residents described as spillover violence from faction fighting in a neighbouring township.

Patrick Lekota, a senior anti-apartheid spokesman, denounced looting that has accompanied protests in townships and many of the 10 tribal homelands.

Looters "are enemies of the people and have to be identified," Lekota told state television.

"We want to have freedom to do these things (demonstrate), but there are limits within which we can exercise that right."

A coup that toppled Ciskei's hated pro-apartheid ruler Lennox Sebe last week and a demonstration against Bophuthatswana leader Lucas Mangope were marked by looting and arson.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Spanish fishermen lift blockade of 2 ports

ALGECIRAS, Spain (R) — Spanish fishermen reopened the southern port of Almeria Monday but said they would maintain a 12-day-old blockade of Algeciras until the government guarantees them protection against Moroccan fines on illegal fishing. Their colleagues in Huelva, another southern port where industries were being crippled by shortages of raw materials, ended their protest Sunday. Algeciras fishermen said they wanted a written pledge from the minister of agriculture and fishing, Carlos Romero, that they could fish in Moroccan waters without risking fines. Morocco has increased fines for illegal fishing tenfold. The dispute will be reviewed next Monday by a joint commission monitoring a four-year fishing agreement signed in 1988 between the European Community and Morocco.

Avril leaves Haiti for U.S.

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — Haiti's former president, General Prosper Avril, flew out of Haiti for the United States early Monday, two days after resigning as president and head of the army, independent Radio Metropole said. "He left at 6:23 (1123 GMT) on a green airplane for a brief stop in the United States before continuing to another destination," the radio said. It said members of his family and close aides flew out with him. U.S. embassy spokesmen were not immediately available for comment.

7 activists detained in Cuba

HAVANA (AP) — Cuban authorities rounded up seven political activists, including a leading human rights advocate, in a crackdown on dissent, sources said. Human rights groups have said there has been a general crackdown over the past year on groups seeking greater political freedom in Communist Cuba. Samuel Martinez Lara, leader of the unsanctioned pro-human rights party, was detained Saturday, 17 days after completing a 10-month prison sentence, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity Sunday. He was among a group of activist sentenced to prison terms a year ago for trying to organize a rally in support of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev during the Kremlin leader's visit to Havana. Also among the seven detainees was Tania Diaz Castro, who was released from prison last fall after serving a sentence for protest activities. She is not related to President Fidel Castro. There was no immediate official confirmation of the latest arrests.

2nd brother held in U.S. killing

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — The second of two sons charged with killing their millionaire parents at the family's mansion here quietly surrendered to police at Los Angeles International Airport. Erik Menendez, 19, had arranged through his attorney to turn himself over to detectives, said Beverly Hills Police Lt. Bob Curtis. He had been playing in a tennis tournament in Israel. "It was a very low-key thing," said Curtis. "They met him at the airport and arrested him for the murder of his parents. ... I don't even know how many people noticed what was going on." Menendez and his brother, Lyle, are heirs to the \$14-million estate of Jose Menendez, 45, an executive of a Hollywood video distribution company, Live Entertainment Inc. Menendez and his wife, Mary Louise "Kitty" Menendez, 44, were shot to death on Aug. 20 in their \$5-million mansion. The sons reported finding the bodies on returning from a night on the town. Lyle Menendez, 22, was arrested Thursday and held without bail pending a Monday arraignment. Police have said two killers committed the crime, then picked up ejected shell casings from the .12-gauge shotguns they used before fleeing the scene.

Anti-drug candidate declared winner in Colombian primaries

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — An aide to a presidential candidate slain by suspected drug traffickers has declared victory in the race for the presidential nomination of the ruling Liberal Party.

Cesar Gaviria, 43, won the nomination with nearly 60 per cent of the votes cast Sunday, a wide margin over his rivals, according to an exit poll of 150,000 Colombians conducted by the RCN radio network.

"This backing from the Colombian people makes me very happy," Gaviria told reporters at his Bogota campaign headquarters. "I never thought I would win by such a wide margin."

Sunday's primary and other elections for federal, state and local office followed a night of political violence that left six people dead.

Gaviria, an economist by training, was managing the presidential campaign of Sen. Luis Carlos Galan when the candidate and outspoken drug foe was gunned down on Aug. 18, reputedly by

hit men hired by the traffickers.

Gaviria pledged if elected to carry out Galan's reformist platform and the war on cocaine traffickers waged by President Virgilio Barco, who is constitutionally prevented from another term.

The Galan assassination touched off a war between Colombian drug lords and the U.S.-backed government of President Virgilio Barco.

The Barco administration has extradited 14 drug suspects since it announced an unprecedented campaign against the cocaine cartels only hours after Galan's death. The traffickers responded with 262 terrorist attacks, mostly bombings, killing 209 persons before declaring a unilateral truce on Jan. 17.

Political analysts favour the Liberal Party candidate to win the residential election in May, provided there is no split within party ranks.

If Gaviria's candidacy emerges

intact from a March 24 party convention, he will face Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo of the Conservative Party in the May 27 vote.

The new president will take office on Aug. 7 for a four-year term.

"All of the Colombian people's expectations are reflected in this election result in favour of my candidacy, which is a continuation of the political path of Luis Carlos Galan," Gaviria told radio network Caracol in a live broadcast.

He called the primary the first instance in which "Colombians were able to express their will freely." Previously, the Liberal Party candidate was chosen by party bosses in a closed convention.

One of Gaviria's top rivals, Hernando Duran Dussan, conceded late Sunday, saying he was retiring from politics. Radio reports said another rival, Ernesto Samper, was ready to concede, but awaiting first official results.

Mongolian ruling politburo resigns

EAST BERLIN (R) — Mongolia's ruling politburo resigned Monday and Communist leader Zhambyan Batmnkh proposed amending a constitutional clause guaranteeing the party's "leading role," the East German News Agency (ADN) said.

In a report from the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator, ADN said the entire politburo and the secretariat of the policy-making Central Committee quit under pro-democracy pressures at a special session of the committee.

ADN quoted Batmnkh as saying he would ask parliament on March 21 to amend Article 82 of the constitution which describes the party as "the vanguard and the leading power of all state and other mass organisations of working people."

Batmnkh also proposed an

emergency session of the "great people's bureau," or parliament, and said elections originally scheduled for 1991 should be held this year, ADN reported.

In a report to the Central Committee meeting, he called for a strict separation of party and state functions in Mongolia, the world's second oldest Communist state after the Soviet Union.

He stressed the government was ready to cooperate with new opposition parties and movements to draft a new constitution that would be submitted to the people for discussion.

ADN quoted Batmnkh as saying the past three months had been marked by "growing political activity among the people that expressed itself in the creation of new parties and movements."

He said, however, that every-

thing done in the isolated country since the Communists took power in 1921 could not be dismissed as a mistake.

Batmnkh also rejected the opposition's that Mongolian society was in a political, economic and spiritual crisis.

He appealed to all political forces in Mongolia, a vast land wedged between the Soviet Union and China, to work to preserve national unity and resolve "differences with civilised debate."

ADN quoted Batmnkh as saying that a "humanitarian, democratic socialism of a Mongolian character," and with a regulated market economy should be pursued.

Batmnkh's address was carried live by state radio and televi-

sion. Four Mongolian opposition groups, the oldest of which has been active since last December, recently stepped up campaigns for a multi-party system to replace 69 years of Communist dominance.

The Communist rulers have rarely struck back at critics and granted the opposition concession after concession.

On Sunday, thousands of Communists staged their first rally in Ulan Bator since the opposition became active, criticising new reform groups as undemocratic and calling their leaders traitors.

Some 29 activists representing democracy groups ended a three-day hunger strike Friday after Batmnkh announced that the politburo would quit.

Security Council members seek Cambodian solution

PARIS (AP) — The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council Monday held their third round of talks since January to try to find a formula to end the Cambodian civil war.

Diplomats from the United States, the Soviet Union, China, France and Britain met behind closed doors for discussions expected to focus on the failure of a meeting between the four warring factions two weeks ago.

The Security Council members in January backed large parts of an Australian ceasefire plan to put Cambodia under United Nations rule until free elections can be held. They followed up those talks with another session last month in New York.

Analysts believe the plan offers the best chance in years to find a solution to the 11-year conflict. But the combatants failed to agree to any of the major issues

during an informal meeting in Jakarta.

The factions include the Vietnamese-installed government of Premier Hun Sen and the three-party coalition it is fighting.

After the failure of the Jakarta talks, Hun Sen and Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach said one obstacle was the objection by the resistance coalition government to the world "genocide" in referring to Khmer Rouge actions while in power from 1975 to 1978.

The Khmer Rouge killed hundreds of thousands of Cambodia's 8 million people in trying to create a new agrarian society.

The Australian plan aims to break the deadlock reached at the 19-nation talks in Paris last August that broke down largely over the question of how power could be shared between the four factions until elections are held.

East German campaigners jump, pray and duck

EAST BERLIN (R) — Jump, walk, pray or duck — politicians campaigning for East Germany's first free election next Sunday are doing just about anything to attract support.

As the campaign for East Europe's first fully democratic poll in 40 years enters its final week, the tactics are getting dirtier, the stunts more daring, tempers shorter.

Communist leader Gregor Gysi, his party facing certain defeat, threw caution to the wind and parachuted out of an aeroplane — for the first time in his life.

"The world looks very beautiful from up there. Let's make it better down here," said the reformist Gysi after floating to Earth attached to his instructor under a double parachute.

Christian Democrat leader Lothar de Maiziere donned a skull cap to make a more sober appearance at East Berlin's old Synagogue, which held its first service since the Holocaust.

And former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt, appearing on behalf of the

Social Democrats (SPD), walked across a bridge linking East Germany and Poland in the pouring rain.

"I came to tell you that this border is final," Brandt, mobbed by some 400 Poles, said to calm fears a future united Germany might try to claim land from its eastern neighbour.

Unity is the burning issue in the campaign. All the major parties agree to it in principle. The only difference is how and when it should come about.

Opinion polls promise a neck-and-neck race between the two front-runners — the conservative Alliance for Germany and the centre-left SPD, both backed to the hilt by sister parties in West Germany.

But 22 other groups are also jostling for seats in the new 400-member parliament and the friendly, fair atmosphere many East Germans hoped for has been soured by attacks — verbal and physical.

Posters are defaced or torn down as soon as they appear, banners at demonstrations are increasingly turning into personal attacks on rival party

leaders, hate mail is rife and more and more party workers are being beaten up.

Scandal is also in the air. Wolfgang Schnur, leader of the conservative Democratic Awakening (DA) Party, is out of the campaign after accusations he worked for the hated Communist Stasi security police.

Overwhelmed by the allegations, which he strenuously denies, Schnur collapsed and is recovering in hospital.

His party, part of the three-way alliance for Germany, accepted his denial at a congress Sunday but launched an internal investigation into the affair.

Parachuting seemed tame. Officials at the headquarters of East Germany's revamped Communist Party indicated Sunday that they would accept their defeat in the country's first free elections next weekend in good heart.

"There's a certain optimism in the air," said Michael Buetner of the Party of Democratic Socialism (PDS), the new name for the Communists. "There's no comparison with

January when the party was near collapse."

Pointing to scores of young voters milling around his information stand, he added: "The old leaders are out, new members are coming in, and our credibility is rising."

The bulging grey headquarters building which symbolised 40 years of Stalinist rule still seems beleaguered. Even the equipment used to clean its facade is daubed with opposition slogans.

But the PDS, buoyed by the popularity of its new leaders, Prime Minister Hans Modrow and Gysi, is contesting the election in an upbeat mood even though there is little chance of victory.

"Don't worry, take Gysi," say the lapel buttons.

"Of course we can't win, but we can attract people to our new party," said Hans Jakobus, a life-long communist. Speaking against a backdrop of banners warning against a stampede towards unification on West German terms, Jakobus told voters at an information meeting that only a strong left could prevent the next

government capitulating to capitalism.

Opinion polls suggest the PDS could win up to 15 per cent of the vote. Given the anger provoked by disclosures of communist spying and corruption, this may seem surprising.

But unsparring self-criticism has stripped the reformed party down to a bedrock of ideals which find a substantial echo in what used to be communism's wealthiest society.

In amateurish speeches from the floor, voters called for a society guaranteeing a job and free health care and housing. They said they sought a society where human worth was not measured in money.

"More people are clearer now about what good things our society had before and what they stand to lose now," said Traudel Pletsch, who attended the meeting with her husband.

Buetner said the headquarters was only a closed seat of power, forbidden to most East Germans, but "now it's open house to all and that has great symbolic significance."

Cosby, Barr win awards

Cosby, Barr win awards

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Bill Cosby and the Cosby Show won three awards, and Roseanne Barr captured two at the 16th annual People's Choice Awards. Meryl Streep, Tom Cruise and Dustin Hoffman got the top in motion picture categories, and Batman took two trophies in the awards, determined by a national poll. Musical honours went to Paula Abdul, Bobby Brown, Randy Travis and Kenny Rogers. Arsenio Hall won in the first-time category as favourite late-night talk show host for his syndicated show, beating out Johnny Carson and David Letterman. Cosby won his sixth straight trophy for favourite male television performer. He was also named as favourite all-around male entertainer. Miss Barr captured the same two awards in the female category, beating out Phylicia Rashad of the Cosby Show for favourite all-around female television performer. The awards, determined by a nationwide Gallup Organisation poll, were announced during a two-hour broadcast. Twenty-two categories span the entertainment world, from television and film to music.

Quayle buys a souvenir

VALPARAISO, Chile (R) — U.S. Vice-President Dan Quayle picked up an unusual South American souvenir despite the misgivings of his wife Marilyn, who said incredulously: "Dan, you're not getting that." "That" was an anatomically correct wooden Indian statuette which displayed its virility when its head was pulled. Quayle, who was in Valparaiso for the inauguration of Chilean President Patricio Aylwin, spotted the 10 centimetre woodcarving while browsing in a waterfront souvenir shop. The vice president burst out laughing at first. Then, egged on by reporters, he teased his wife that it would be a great thing to bring home. "Dan, you're not going to buy that," said Mrs. Quayle, who held up a copper flowerpot and suggested: "How about this?" When Quayle persisted, his wife laughingly declared: "You're so sick." Turning to reporter who asked what he would do with the statue, Mrs. Quayle said: "When he's having a press conference, he'll pull it out at the appropriate time."

Children found playing with human head

NEW YORK (AP) — Three boys unwittingly used a wrapped-up human head as a soccer ball before the father of one of the youngsters realised what it was, police said Monday. The head, found in the south Bronx, and some limbs that also were found may belong to a torso discovered along in a wooded area in Manhattan on March 4, police said. The boys, ages 9, 10 and 13, apparently pulled the head wrapped in rags out of a box of trash next to a fire hydrant on a dead end street, said police spokeswoman Sgt. Mary Wrensen. "The kids started to play soccer with the object and then threw it into a trash can containing a fire," she said. Ralph Rodriguez was washing his car at the hydrant. Wrensen said. After the object went into the fire, Rodriguez noticed a leg sticking out of a garbage bag in the box and realised what the "ball" was. He looked closer and found arms and legs, police said. Area residents call the block "the morgue," because five bodies have been found there in the past two years, the Daily News reported.

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	08	13	55 Cloudy
ATHENS	09	19	66 Clear
BAHRAIN	18	25	77 Cloudy
BANGKOK	24	35	91 Clear
Buenos Aires	16	28	62 Clear
Cairo	11	22	64 Cloudy
CHICAGO	15	23	74 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	08	13	56 Cloudy
FRANKFURT	09	16	60 Cloudy
GENOVA	00	32	84 Cloudy
HONG KONG	18	24	72 Clear
MOSCOW	03	27	50 Rain
STANBUL	11	22	74 Clear
LONDON	07	15	57 Clear
LOS ANGELES	08	16	61 Clear
MADRID	07	25	77 Cloudy
MECCA	21	70	88 Cloudy
MONTREAL	02	38	60 Cloudy
MOSCOW	04	25	64 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	14	24	75 Clear
NEW YORK	11	22	66 Cloudy
PARIS	11	22	74 Cloudy
ROME	04	29	82 Cloudy
SYDNEY	17	23	68 Rain
TOKYO	12	24	81 Rain
VIENNA	05	13	64 Clear

X - Indicates missing information.

Chile's new president enters Santiago in triumph

SANTIAGO (R) — Patricio Aylwin, Chile's first civilian president since a bloody 1973 coup, entered Santiago to a tumultuous welcome Sunday after taking over from military strongman General Augusto Pinochet.

But violent street clashes broke out between police and crowds as Aylwin, a 71-year-old moderate lawyer, appeared to Chileans in his first speech as head of state to work together to rebuild demo-

cracy. Minutes before he began speaking from a balcony at the Moneda Presidential Palace, crowds who had been waiting hours for a sight of their new leader burst through barriers.

Police fired tear gas canisters. Groups of youths pelted police with stones, bottles and iron bars ripped from railings.

Eyewitnesses reported scores of injured demonstrators.